

Sudan leader calls for mass mobilisation

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir has called for mass mobilisation against southern rebels allegedly supported by foreign armies.

Lieutenant-General Bashir made the appeal at a rally on Tuesday in the province of Khartoum, about 130 kilometres southeast of Khartoum, state television said on Wednesday.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has launched its first offensive in four years, capturing nine towns and villages since Oct. 25, and in retaliation government warplanes have bombed a southern town, diplomats and aid officials in Nairobi said on Monday.

The Sudanese government says large numbers of Ugandan and Tanzanian troops are taking part in the offensive but the diplomats said this was unlikely. Uganda might be giving the SPLA some logistical support, they added.

Gen. Bashir again blamed foreigners for the latest fighting.

"The stressed Sudan would not be cowed by conspiracies being hatched by states of international arrogance and which are imposing their will upon some neighbouring client states to use them as tools to implement those conspiracies," state radio said.

"(Bashir) called on all the sectors of the people and youth immediately to head for the popular defence camps and to enlist in the jihad battalion in order to protect the faith and the country and its territory," the radio added.

The phrasing of the report seemed to imply enlistment was voluntary but the state media described it as "a declaration of general mobilisation."

In the past two weeks the government has made several appeals for new recruits and government newspapers say there has been an enthusiastic response, with thousands of young men turning up at recruitment offices.

The recruits become members of the Popular Defence Force, a paramilitary organisation set up months after Gen. Bashir seized power in 1989 to help the army crush

the southern rebels.

The Khartoum government has given few details of the fighting in the south but the armed forces spokesman, Major-General Mohammad Abdul Kader, said the army had killed hundreds of attacking troops.

The security situation in the operations zone was satisfactory as the armed forces had the upper hand, he added. The fighting is in Eastern Equatoria, close to Sudan's borders with Uganda and Kenya.

"The armed forces have inflicted heavy casualties and losses on the invading forces, which has affected their morale and made them circulate false information to the effect that their forces are approaching Juba and are about to occupy it," he said.

Before the offensive the SPLA, which says it is fighting domination by the Arab and Muslim north of Sudan, was about 50 kilometres from Juba, the biggest town in the south.

The army spokesman said Torit, 120 kilometres south-east of Juba, was the only town in the area of operations and other settlements there were just small villages.

He said the armed forces had driven the attacking forces back, especially in the Ashwa area.

He repeated the allegation that Ugandan troops were taking part and said the army could not rule out the presence of troops from other countries because Uganda alone could not carry out such an offensive.

Uganda has said it had nothing to do with an attack last month on government forces near Parajok and Magwi on the Ugandan border. It said the offensive was solely the work of the SPLA.

The diplomats and aid officials in Nairobi said the estimated 2,000 rebels in the offensive force had almost cut off up to 10,000 Sudanese government soldiers before taking the village of Pagere but gave them time to escape to the north.

"Khartoum is in shock. For the past four years they have seen the SPLA moving backwards... and now all of a sudden they lose all these places," a diplomat said.

Israeli court allows woman to train as air force pilot

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a landmark decision, Israel's supreme court ruled Wednesday that the air force must open its pilots' training courses to women.

The judges ruled 3-2 for Alice Miller, a 23-year-old former aeronautics student who now holds an office job in the air force.

Ms. Miller was joyous Wednesday, but also expressed concern about being the first to break into one of Israel's all-male bastions.

"I feel great tension and now hard struggle begins," Ms. Miller told reporters after the ruling. "It's difficult to be one woman among men, especially because of the feelings men express about the issue."

Women's activists praised the ruling as a breakthrough for Israeli women. "We have removed a real obstacle of discrimination against women," said Naomi Hazan, a legislator of the left-wing

Meretz Party. "We're not just talking about Alice Miller, but I hope many, many women pilots in the air force in the future."

In the ruling, the judges said the air force must treat all candidates equally and must give Ms. Miller a test to see if she is fit to be a pilot. If she passes, she must be allowed to join the training course, the three judges said. The two dissenters said the air force does not have the facilities to accommodate women.

The air force chief, Major General Herzl Bodinger, had barred women from the pilots course on grounds that women did not serve long enough in the military to justify the investment and that motherhood could end service prematurely or make it difficult to maintain the necessary level of fitness. Training pilots is one of the longest and most expensive courses in the military.

46 Mauritians charged with spying for Baghdad

NOUAKCHOTT (Agencies) — Forty-six Mauritians members of groups sympathetic to Baghdad's ruling Baath party were charged Tuesday with spying for a foreign power, justice officials said.

Sixteen other people detained in the reported smashing of an Iraqi spy ring were released during the day, and the future of ten soldiers, including officers, arrested in the swoop last month was still uncertain.

The wave of arrests began Oct. 23, when Mauritania's Interior Minister Mohammad Ould Dah accused the Iraqi regime of maintaining "a secret network (to provide) precise information on strategic positions of the Mauritanian state."

Senior officials in the presidency and the Mauritanian parliament were implicated, according to Mr. Ould Dah, and the discovery of the ring triggered the expulsion of Iraq's ambassador to Mauritania, Anwar Molad Bayan.

Iraq has denied the charges.

Mauritania "has been handsomely paid by those who want to destroy the relations between Arab states and harm the reputation of Iraq," an Iraqi spokesman said.

Mauritania's crackdown on activists suspected of spying for former ally Iraq is the latest indication of the government's desire to move closer to the Western camp, analysts said here Wednesday.

Iraqi-Mauritanian relations reached a peak six years ago when Iraq backed a Mauritanian conflict against neighbouring Senegal.

But since then, Mauritania President Maouya Ould Taya has become increasingly irritated by the activities of Iraqi diplomats on his territory, preferring to ally his country more with moderate Arab states and even Western powers.

Mauritania has been included in the upcoming conference in Barcelona of European and Mediterranean powers, and has been praised as a "good pupil" by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Traditionally opposed to Iraq, Mauritania nevertheless sent its foreign minister to Monday's funeral of assassinated Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

U.S. representatives extend Palestinian aid

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The House of Representatives voted Tuesday to continue financial aid to the Palestinians after a congressman dropped his opposition, citing the assassination of Israel's prime minister.

The vote to temporarily renew the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act (MEPFA), which allows for about \$500 million in aid over five years to Palestinian self-government authorities, also would give the Palestine Liberation Organisation Authority to legally maintain an office here.

That authority expired after Congress failed to renew the facilitation act last week. The State Department then announced it would shut the office down, a move that sparked protests from Palestinian groups.

The new measure, passed in the House Tuesday evening on a non-controversial "voice" vote, will now have to be reconciled with a similar version that passed the Senate last week, House and Senate aides said.

Under the House version, the Palestinian self-governing authority could receive aid — and legally operate an office

here — through Dec. 31. The Senate version would expire a month earlier, on Dec. 1.

The bill was introduced in House, where New York Republican Michael Forbes, backed by a key congressional leader, vowed to fight the measure because of his opposition to the PLO.

But following the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv Saturday, Mr. Forbes agreed to wage his battle "at a more appropriate time."

It is unclear exactly how the House version will play out in the Senate, where the proposal to renew the facilitation act, for unrelated reasons, got torpedoed in the first place.

The act suddenly expired last week due to a squabble between the White House and Republican Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Helms blocked a renewal of the act because Democrats refused to grant concessions on his plan to reorganise the State Department — a plan the White House vigorously opposes.

Assassination of Rabin increases Palestinian uncertainty of future

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians are questioning whether acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres is politically strong enough to push the Middle East peace process to a conclusion despite his strong commitment to peace.

Both leaders in the Palestinian community and ordinary people said they saw the killing of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last Saturday as a blow to their hopes for peace.

But many Palestinians also resented the hero's treatment granted to Mr. Rabin, a man who fought the Palestinians' quest for their own state for nearly half a century.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who returned Tuesday from consultations on the peace process with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said he had "a good and strong relationship" with Mr. Peres.

He said he hoped the Israeli troop withdrawal from cities in the West Bank, negotiated in the two sides' last agreement in September, would go forward. In fact, officers from both sides met Tuesday to discuss the initial withdrawal — from the West

Bank town of Jenin.

The labour minister in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Samir Ghosheh, said that at its next meeting the cabinet plans to discuss the dangers to the peace process from Mr. Rabin's death and wanted to push Israel to keep the process going.

"We, in the Palestinian (National) Authority, will send a clear message to Israeli leaders that we have signed agreements with the government of Israel and not only with Rabin," Mr. Ghosheh said.

PNA's Youth Minister Azmi Shuabli said the Palestinians were concerned that Mr. Peres will be dissuaded from moving forward quickly with the pullout and further negotiations, stymieing the whole process.

"All our fears are that Peres will not be able to stand up to the Israeli military leaders," Mr. Shuabli said. "He might suffer from a state of confusion which would lead to no progress."

Mr. Peres was a stronger advocate of peace than Mr. Rabin — and was believed to have pushed Mr. Rabin into decisions towards peace. But

many Palestinians share the view that it was Mr. Rabin's popularity as a former general and defence minister that allowed him to make concessions.

Ghassan Khatib, a Palestinian political analyst and former negotiator with the Israelis, said it was the combination of Mr. Rabin's toughness and Mr. Peres' desire for peace that made progress possible.

"The combination of Rabin and Peres is a unique phenomenon in Israel," Mr. Khatib said. "Peres is an experienced diplomat, flexible and cunning, and Rabin is a popular leader in Israel with an excellent security record."

Of course, it was Mr. Rabin's history in the military that made him a hated figure among Palestinians. Many remember him as the man who drove thousands of Arabs from their homes in the towns of Lod and Ramle in the 1948 war.

Mr. Rabin also was defence minister during the intifada, the uprising that started in 1987, and suggested the revolt be put down by "breaking the bones" of

Rifkind assures S. Arabia over London-based exiles

JEDDAH (AFP) — British Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, who began a visit to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, tried to ease concerns here over the activities of Saudi opposition groups in London.

"I believe that one or two Saudi individuals in London has no implications for the very healthy relationship between our two countries," Mr. Rifkind said, referring to exiled opposition leader Mohammad Massari.

Mr. Massari was given asylum in London after Saudi Arabia banned his group, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, soon after it was set up in 1993.

The group, which is made up of university professors and Islamic fundamentalist preachers, has accused the Saudi regime of corruption.

"We share a concern that of course individuals can sometimes behave in a way which is harmful to the relations between friendly governments," Mr. Rifkind told a press conference after meeting his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud Al Faisal.

"But that has to be put in proper perspective," he said, adding that the media had given opposition figures greater importance than they deserved.

"So far as the British government is concerned, we expect those of foreign nationality who are residents to obey the law and to act in a responsible way."

The ambassadors of 15 Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, in May issued a protest to British Prime Minister John Major about a policy which they deemed too soft on Arab opposition groups.

Mr. Rifkind last week warned fundamentalists living in Britain against taking part in violent acts.

The British foreign secretary also said here that London and Riyadh shared the view that Iraq presented an ongoing threat. "We have a similar awareness of the dangers of the division in Iraq and the need for international cooperation to respond to that," he said.

The situation had deteriorated since the defection in August of General Hussein Kamel, the architect of Iraq's banned weapons programmes, Mr. Rifkind said.

He said Baghdad's revelations that it had developed a huge biological programme was equally worrying. "This

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel told Arafat to stay away from Rabin funeral

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat wanted to attend the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin, "my friend and my partner," but Israel asked him to stay away for security reasons, Mr. Arafat said in an interview broadcast Tuesday.

Mr. Arafat told CNN's "Larry King Live" that he was sorry not to have gone to Mr. Rabin's funeral on Monday. The funeral was attended by scores of world leaders. Mr. Arafat said he wanted "to have this chance to say to my friend and my partner Prime Minister Rabin: 'farewell.'" But for their interior security affairs, they didn't give me this chance," Mr. Arafat said. "I understood completely," he said. "I know that... after this awful crime, they have some problems... I was in permanent contact with Mr. Peres and with others, and I understood completely their reasons."

Egyptian gets 12 years for cutting up wife

COPENHAGEN (AP) — An Egyptian man got 12 years in prison Tuesday after being convicted of murdering his Filipino wife in a fit of jealousy, cutting her body into pieces and dropping them in a harbour.

Fareed Helmy Khalil Rasmi, 49, denied killing his 39-year-old wife last year, and prosecutors conceded they could not prove he had carried out the murder. But they did convince a 12-person jury that Rasmi had chopped up the body, enough for it to find him guilty of murder, a court official said.

The woman's name was not disclosed. Prosecutors said Rasmi used a saw to cut off her head and limbs, wrapped them in two plastic garbage bags and threw them into Copenhagen's harbour last year. Her torso was discovered partly buried on a marshy green field in the city. The body parts in plastic bags were found by a canoeist. Experts linked Rasmi to the crime by a saw found in his apartment. Rasmi told the court that the residue on the saw was that of a monkey he had sliced for food. But experts testified that the teeth on a saw fit exactly with the cuts on the body. Rasmi was arrested after the murder on his way to the airport three hours before his plane took off for Cairo. The one-way ticket for Egypt had been bought same day, police said.

Son to collect Balabagan's blood money

DUBAI (AFP) — The son of a United Arab Emirates (UAE) man said he planned to visit the court on Thursday to collect \$41,000 in blood money from a young Filipina maid who killed his father. "If it's over there, I'll get it," Faraj Al Baloushi told AFP on Wednesday, adding he would give the money to charity or build a mosque in memory of his father, Almas Mohammad Abdulah Al Baloushi. The maid, Sarah Balabagan, stabbed to death Almas Baloushi in July last year but said she had acted in self-defence. An appeals court in the city of Al Ain on Sunday received 150,000 dirhams (\$41,000) cash which had been raised by supporters in the Philippines of the 16-year-old maid, Philippine diplomat Danilo Cruz said. The court sentenced Ms. Balabagan on Oct. 30 to one year in prison and to receive 100 lashes of the whip when she agreed to pay the blood money in exchange for the Baloushi dropping his demand for her execution. A lower court condemned Balabagan to death in September, rejecting her claim that she stabbed her employer with the knife he used to rape her.

U.N. chief's nephew in psychiatric hospital

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — A court ordered the nephew of U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to undergo psychiatric monitoring Tuesday after his lawyers said he was schizophrenic. His lawyers apparently wanted to lighten the 10-year sentence he received in September for smuggling LSD into Egypt. Judge Izzeddin Abdul Sabour ruled that Karim Raouf Ghali, 17, be committed to a psychiatric hospital in Cairo for 45 days to determine his mental condition, judicial sources said. Ghali was arrested in May at his family's villa in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria after two students told police they bought the hallucinogen from him. He received a 10-year sentence in September that the judge described as lenient. Ghali hails from one of Egypt's most prominent Christian families. He is the younger brother of Youssef Boutros Ghali, Egypt's minister of international cooperation.

Backpackers recall travelling with assassin

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Photos of the man who has admitted assassinating Israel's prime minister hit home for two Swedes: They recognised their old backpacking friend. "He was such a nice guy," Adrian Nordenborg, 24, was quoted as saying Tuesday by the newspaper expression. He and Tomas Dirsen, 25, said they met Yigal Amir by chance in 1989 aboard a tourist boat in the Greek islands. The Swedish university students travelled with him two more times while backpacking in Greece and Israel. When they first met, Nordenborg said he noticed "this guy lying on his stomach with a strange cap on his head acting strangely." Nordenborg asked what Amir was doing. Amir said it was time for morning prayer. They started talking, took photos and eventually exchanged addresses — customary among students travelling on a low budget. Expression published a photo taken by Nordenborg of Amir sitting in a chair smiling happily. Nordenborg said they never discussed religion and that he had no idea Amir held extremist views. Nordenborg said he and Dirsen do not belong to any religious group. The two Swedes contacted Amir during their last visit to Israel, in 1993. He met them in Eilat and later gave them a tour of Jerusalem, including the occupied Arab quarter.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
13:00 Ins — The Happy Professor
13:23 The Hurricane Sam
13:45 The Hurricane Sam
14:15 My Secret Identity
15:00 The New Leave It to Beaver
15:30 Gillette World Sport Special
15:00 White Heat
17:00 Children's Programme: Sophie Et
17:30 Varieties — Cost Your Vie
19:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine — Archimede
19:30 News Headlines
19:33 Carol's Company
20:00 The Album Show
21:10 The New Avengers
22:00 News in English
22:25 Feature Film: "Double Edge"
22:50 The Thorn Birds

PRAYER TIMES
04:35 Fair
05:54 (Sunrise) Dula
11:19 Dhur
14:19 'Asr
16:45 Maghreb
18:04 Jsha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweethill, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 812785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 624610.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 652326.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772551.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675601.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Cold and rainy weather conditions will prevail during the weekend with temperatures westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba it will be relatively cold with a chance for scattered showers, winds northerly active, and seas choppy.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 7/13
Aqaba 15/22

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts 6/15
Jordan Valley 15/21

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 13 Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 62 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaidh 736011
Dr. Wisam Hazin 794744
Dr. Fakhri Bishara 654125
Dr. Bilal Al Sayid 890280
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 783336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 626752
Al Sultan pharmacy 630730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Stimciani pharmacy 637660
Nasrallah pharmacy 626752
Najib pharmacy 847532

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalil 273099
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Amin Abul Rub 982393
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 683900
Public Security Department 83021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 879447
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815415
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53220
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT
This information is supplied by the Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:20 Santa (RJ)
08:00 Agaba (RJ)
09:20 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:05 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:05 Beirut (RJ)
10:50 Amman (RJ)
16:25 Colombo (RJ)
16:25 London (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:35 Moscow (RJ)
18:25 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:40 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:15 Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:35 Rome (RJ)
23:30 Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
12:40 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
12:40 Sharjah (AH)
13:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:00 Doha (QF)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Aqaba (RJ)
07:15 Moscow (RJ)
10:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:05 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:15 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
12:05 Jeddah (RJ)
12:15 Athens (RJ)
19:50 Larnaca (RJ)
20:00 New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
20:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:00 New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
20:45 Cairo (RJ)
21:05 Jeddah (RJ)
22:45 Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:30 Beirut, London (BA)
07:45 Beirut (ME)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Muscat (GF)
13:30 Riyadh (SV)
17:15 Doha (QF)

HJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apples 700/500
Banana 680
Banana (Mufamma) 620
Cabbage 160/100
Carrot 330/200
Cauliflower 170/100
Cucumbers (large) 150/100
Cucumbers (small) 360/250
Eggplant 150/80
Garlic 700/500
Ginger 700/500
Grape Fruit 200/140
Lemon 220/140
Marrow (large) 100/50
Marrow (small) 200/120
Olives (green) 350/200
Onion (green) 320/180
Onion (dry) 250/150
Orange 460/320
Pepper (hot) 200/120
Pepper (sweet) 180/100
Potato 340/250
Radish 190/100
Spinach 130/80
String Beans 680/450
Tangerine 220/150
Tomato 130/70

Home News

Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, November 9-10, 1995

3

King's birthday is public holiday

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker announced today that all government departments and public institutions will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 14, to mark the country's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's 60th birthday. The announcement also said that a committee organising celebrations for the occasion has prepared a programme of several activities and events.

SSC to raise pensions 10%

AMMAN (J.T.) — Retired citizens covered by the Social Security Corporation (SSC) can expect a 10 per cent increase in their pension next year, according to Minister of Labour Nader Abul Shaer.

The government has decided to raise SSC pensions by 10 per cent starting Jan 1, 1996, Dr. Abul Shaer announced Wednesday. The decision, which was taken by the Cabinet in its meeting Saturday evening, also provides for the increase by 10 per cent of the pension of senior citizens whose jobs were terminated due to ill health,

Dr. Abul Shaer added. Speaking to the press, Dr. Abul Shaer said the decision, taken upon a recommendation by the SSC board, was taken to mark His Majesty King Hussein's 60th birthday.

The measure will benefit those already retired and receiving a pension from the SSC and all future pensioners, provided that the floor of increases in pensions will not drop below JD 15 and will not rise above 50 per cent, according to the minister.

The decision means that the SSC will incur an additional cost of JD 9 to JD 10

million annually to cover this increase, according to the minister.

The minister made it clear that there will be no extra deductions from salaries to cover this amount, and that the new measure will not affect the SSC's investment programme.

SSC Director General Safwan Toukan announced last month that the corporation has so far invested JD 722.2 million — more than 50 per cent of those funds are deposited in banks, or invested in public shareholding companies and in real estate.

Prime Minister inspects new facilities at bridges

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday inspected facilities at the King Hussein bridge on the River Jordan and opened a new arrivals' hall to cope with the growing number of visitors coming to Jordan following its signing of a peace treaty with Israel.

Accompanied by Interior Minister Salameh Hamad and other officials, the prime minister toured the new facilities which include air-conditioned halls, customs offices and other utilities of a total area of 3,000 square metres. Fakhri Iskandar, the bridge police department director, said improvements to services and the addition of the new premises were deemed necessary in view of the growing number of visitors to the Kingdom.

In 1994, visitors numbered 98,303 and the first ten months of 1995 have seen 140,978 visitors enter through the bridges. Col. Iskandar said the sum of JD 1.5 million has been allocated for the new facilities.

Not all the allocations were spent and the left-over sum will be spent on modernising the old buildings, Col. Iskandar said. A tender for this project will be announced in the next two weeks.

Accompanied by the Public Security Director and other senior police officers, the prime minister later visited the new building housing the badia and border police and was briefed on the duties of the police officers which include combating smuggling operations.

More rains expected

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology said Wednesday that a low depression created over southern Turkey and accompanied by a cold air mass will affect Jordan Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, bringing more rain.

A department official told the Jordan Times that temperatures Thursday will rise to a maximum of 13°C, nearly nine degrees below normal and dropping to seven at night.

The official said that the rains of Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning fell on nearly all regions, with Amman receiving a total of 2.8 millimetres.

The rains came as a result of a low depression which was centred over Turkey, with some heavy rain falling mainly in the south.

Two burnt in car accident on airport road

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two people were burnt to death Tuesday following a road accident at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) highway, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports. A CDD official told the Jordan Times that the accident which took place late Monday night near Al Zamil area involved a vehicle which struck the guardrail on the right hand side of the highway.

The impact of the collision ignited a blaze in the vehicle and two of the three men were trapped inside," the CDD official said.

The driver of the car, Nasser Issa Abu Samra, 30, survived the crash unharmed and was found lying unconscious beside the vehicle, according to

the official. "When we arrived we found two people lying beside the car, the unharmed driver and the badly burnt body of the passenger, he said.

The second victim, the official added, was trapped inside the Saudi plate Mercedes sports car where his charred body was found. "Preliminary indications of the accident shows that the driver of the vehicle was speeding, lost control of his vehicle and slammed into the rail," the official said.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Wednesday declined revealing the cause of the accident.

The deceased were identified by the CDD as: Khalid Mahmoud Ma'ayah, 33, and Nidal Masri, 30. All three bodies were taken to Al Bashir Hospital. An official at the hospital

told the Jordan Times that the sole survivor was discharged from hospital.

Meanwhile, Tuesday's road accidents claimed two more lives in Zarqa, police and CDD reports said.

According to the reports, the accident which occurred near Hetin Camp involved a pickup and a parked trailer.

The report said that the pickup driver, who was speeding, lost control and slammed into a trailer that was parked at the right side of the road.

The impact of the accident caused the immediate death of the pickup truck driver, Ismael Kandil, 45. The passenger who was accompanying Mr. Kandil, Kamal Sedik Abdullah, 32, an Egyptian national, died the following day in hospital, according to police reports.

Princess Sarvath inaugurates Learning Difficulties Centre

'Schools urged to refer students with learning difficulties to centre'

By Ghalia Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, President of the Young Muslim Women's Association and chairwoman of the Princess Sarvath Community College Board of Trustees, Wednesday inaugurated the new Learning Difficulties Centre at the Princess Sarvath Community College.

The centre, which started its training programme in September, aims at equipping several Ministry of Education teachers with the skills needed to deal with students suffering from learning difficulties.

Talking to reporters after opening the centre, Princess Sarvath stressed the importance of catering for the needs of students with learning difficulties.

Learning difficulties do not make the students suffering from them handicapped, Princess Sarvath stressed, adding that some of these students' abilities could be above average.

The Princess said that learning difficulties do not impede the students' future performance, emphasising that many of these problems could be overcome.

Pointing out that about 25 per cent of students have some kind of learning difficulties, Princess Sarvath said the long term objectives of the centre are to reach all students in need of

its services in the Kingdom.

In the coming few days the centre will start advising schools that students suffering from learning difficulties should be referred to the centre.

According to a statement by the centre, "The centre aims to provide qualitative services for students with hidden learning difficulties that impair their expected achievements though they have no auditory, visual or mental problems."

"As long as educators and parents are unable to detect these hidden learning difficulties they are prone to labeling the child as being lazy or even stupid," the statement added.

It said the centre will also serve as a national testing and evaluation centre, that will eventually be expanded to encompass a regional scope.

The Princess Sarvath Community College has also opened a number of resource rooms in different Ministry of Education schools to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

The resource rooms will be a training site for the new centre's nine staff members as well as offer help and support to children suffering from different learning difficulties.

"The centre has 60 teacher trainees from five different schools in the Kingdom. After their train-



HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Wednesday greets Jordanian and Canadian officials, and guests after inaugurating the Learning Difficulties Centre at the Princess Sarvath Community College (Petra photo)

ing is completed, we will appoint a teacher in each school to work part-time to treat students suffering from learning difficulties," said Khuloud Khasawneh, project coordinator and one of the nine members at the centre.

Ms Khasawneh and the other staff received six months of training in Canada where they were equipped with the skills needed to screen, identify, diagnose and treat children

suffering from learning difficulties.

Necessary funds for the programme were provided by The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) which also provides funds for training Jordanian educators in Jordan.

After opening the centre, Princess Sarvath toured its facilities and viewed samples of different tests which the centre is in the process of adapting as diagnostic

tools. She was also briefed on the translated curricula designed and prepared by specialised Canadian experts and institutions for training resource room teachers.

The centre was set up in cooperation with the Canadian government, CIDA, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges and the New Brunswick Community College.

Italian ambassador to open new centre at University of Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The new Documentation Centre of the Italian Language and Culture located at the Italian Teaching Section at the Department of Modern Languages, the Faculty of Arts at the University of Jordan will be officially opened by Italy's ambassador to Jordan, Romualdo Bettini, Saturday, according to a press release from the Italian Embassy.

The new Centro Di Documentazione Di Lingua e Cultura Italiana was provided by the Italian "Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli" in Turin according to the 1993-95 Executive Programme of the Cultural Agreement between the Italian Republic and Jordan and addressed to the University of Jordan by a mutual agreement between Marcell Pacini, Director of the Agnelli Foundation, and the Italian Embassy here, the press release said.

According to the press release, the new documentation centre, to be completed in two years' time, will provide information on foreign language courses; as well as 400 books on subjects as diverse as linguistics, dictionaries, history, geography, culture, novels, arts and architecture.

The centre will also provide video-cassettes of Italian movies and cinematography, as well as audiovisual material for teaching programmes to facilitate Italian language teaching.

The financial support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' three-year language teaching programme has gone beyond the \$250,000 already spent on Jordan.

Dr. Bettini will discuss the new 1995-96 financial support for Jordanian universities during the official opening of the centre, the press release said.

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Seminar to probe community health, endemic diseases

AMMAN (J.T.) — Scientists from 17 Arab and overseas countries in addition to Jordan will gather in Amman at the Philadelphia Hotel for three-day seminar from Nov. 11-13, according to Oumeish Oumeish, president of the seminar.

HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the president of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), will act as patron of the seminar.

The Fifth International and Pan-Arab Seminar on Leishmaniasis and Endemic Zoonoses will be organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology, according to Dr. Oumeish.

This seminar will focus on new findings on zoonosis and the impact of development on its spread and

control. The seminar also seeks to focus on the dramatic changes in development plans in the different fields, and the ecological changes that these are likely to bring to the region as a result, Dr. Oumeish said.

The seminar is a forum for promoting progress in the science of zoonoses. It aims to highlight new developments in zoonosis, especially in relation to epidemiology, he said.

Papers for presentation include themes such as contamination in the environment, water resources development and public health, medical education and community health and development, according to Dr. Oumeish.

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The Embassy of Israel conveys its thanks to all those who presented their condolences on the death of the

Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Yitzhak Rabin,

and ask each of them to consider this as a personal acknowledgement of their kind gesture.

It is our prayer and hope that the late Prime Minister's Legacy, 'No to Violence - Yes to Peace,' will prevail in our region.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "Aqui El Que No Corre" at Instituto Cervantes on Thursday at 5.00pm.

* "Suleiman the Magnificent" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Funun on Thursday at 5.00pm.

* "The Empire of the Sun" at the American Center on Thursday at 5.00pm.

CONCERT

* "Concert by the band of the National Music Conservatory at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8.00pm.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

* A service of Remembrance at the Church of the Redeemer on Thursday at 6.00pm.

POETRY RECITAL

* Recital of poems by poets of the '90s at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Thursday and Friday at 6.00pm.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Akram Abdel Jaber at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman.

* "The Birth of Movies," at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Works by Dodi Taba'a entitled "Variations Graphiques 93-95" at the French Cultural Centre.

* Protex 95 (Middle East Protection and Security Exhibition) and Building 95 (Middle East Building Exhibition) at Amman - International Fair, Marj Al Hamam. (Tel. 688141)

* The Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project presents "Winds of Change" its fall exhibition at the Jerusalem Insurance Company in Shmeisani (Tel. 658696)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Settlement with justice

THE SUBJECT of war crimes is naturally taking a centre stage in the ongoing peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, among Balkan leaders. The Bosnian government is insisting that Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic be handed over to the war crimes international tribunal in the Hague as part of the overall settlement which is in the making. The two Bosnian Serb leaders have been indicted by the tribunal and are awaiting trial if they can ever be extradited, something which does not seem to be in the cards for the time being.

This is taking place amidst growing optimism that the U.S.-brokered peace negotiations have reached a critical point and could be on the verge of attaining meaningful progress on a blueprint for peace in former Yugoslavia.

There is no doubt that all people implicated in the perpetration of war crimes or crimes against humanity in Bosnia should be brought to justice. All war criminals connected with acts of genocide committed in Bosnia should be apprehended or surrendered to the appropriate international tribunal assembled for this particular purpose in the Hague for a speedy trial. This is indeed a high priority issue that no nation, including the three negotiating parties in Dayton, should ignore.

We all know that such noble and legal obligation cannot be met by suspending the political talks on a general framework for peace in the Balkan region or by preventing their successful resolution, till all those charged with war crimes are brought to justice. The Serb negotiators are internationally obligated to facilitate the trial of their countrymen implicated in war crimes. Failing to do so would blemish forever the image and reputation of the Serbian nation. But while a link must be maintained between a final settlement and the prosecution of all war criminals, peace talks between the parties under the auspices of Washington should proceed with full speed. This, for now, is the answer.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Wednesday that the outcome of a survey conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies in the University of Jordan about prospects for some kind of union between Jordan and the Palestinian territories reflects the tendency of people on both sides of the river to forge unity that would best safeguard their interests. Forty-five years ago the people of the West Bank asked the late King Abdullah for merger with the Kingdom, and the recent survey conducted simultaneously in the West Bank and Jordan gives clear indication that there is a great popular enthusiasm towards union, said Mufid Nahleh. Referring to sceptics who fear that a union could mean creating a substitute homeland for the Palestinians in Jordan, the writer said this concept is unrealistic any more, now that Jordan and Israel have signed a peace treaty defining international boundaries between them and in the light of Israel's gradual withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He said any form of unity between the two people can open up great opportunities for a prosperous future for them, and can further enhance peace and stability for all countries in the region.

IN THE view of Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, Israel's Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres has a good opportunity to breathe life into the stalled Israeli-Syrian negotiations and to complete Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian territory in the coming few months. In the light of the overwhelming international and regional backing for the Labour-led Israeli government's drive for peace, Mr. Peres has a chance to prove to the Israeli electorate that the Labour Party has fulfilled its promises to them about peace with the Arabs, and so secure victory in the 1996 parliamentary elections, said the writer. It is quite known that Mr. Peres is less stringent in dealings with the Arab countries and less influenced by the military than his predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin. Accordingly, Mr. Peres could be more flexible in security and military matters with regard to Syria, said the writer. Without Rabin, said the writer, Mr. Peres will have a free hand to conduct negotiations with Damascus on the one hand and to ensure a smooth Israeli military pull out from Palestinian towns on the other.

The View from Academia

After Rabin, more involvement by the Israeli public

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

MUCH HAS already been said or written about Yitzhak Rabin and the implications of his untimely demise, and much will be said and written yet. Over the past few days, several people have dwelled on his exceptional personal attributes and achievements, on his qualifications as a leader and peacemaker, on the void he has left in Israel's political scene, on the likely impact of his death on the direction and shape of future Israeli politics and on the peace process, on the meaning of the assassination act within the context of Israeli society, on the noticeable growth, escalation and spread of Jewish violence and terrorism, and so forth. Though much of what is said about the possible consequences of Rabin's death remains in the realm of conjecture or speculation, the issues themselves are legitimate to raise. Indeed, Rabin's death (no matter how one interprets it) has left many in the region sad, angry and (above all) concerned.

One matter of great concern has to do with the position of the Israeli public vis-a-vis the peace process in the days ahead. I say the Israeli "public" because much depends on what it may or may not do in the days to come, whether early elections are or are not held.

The vast majority of those commenting on Rabin's death and all of the leaders and persons speaking at his funeral have expressed their unwavering commitment to the cause of peace and the faith and hope that Israel will continue in Rabin's path.

Peace, they believe, is a need and necessity for all the peoples of the region, and there is no going back now. They are absolutely correct. Life without peace in our part of the world is in nobody's interest, apart from the few, from the opportunists who have thrived long on the no-war, no-peace situation, the foolish and misguided who revel in their foolishness and ignorance, and the forces of "darkness" and terror.

Such forces are worrisome. Beneath the overt sense of optimism and faith in the continuity of the peace process in nearly all the significant comments and speeches since Rabin's death lurks a covert (but real) sense of anxiety about the future. Essentially, the anxiety stems not just from the fear of the outcome of early elections (i.e. the Likud may come to power) or the void Rabin has left behind (i.e. will Shimon Peres be carrying the torch as determinedly and ably?) but also from the alarmingly increasing presence and power of Israeli hardliners, extremists and terrorists.

Over the past few years, the number of those in Israel

speaking (and working) against peace and for confiscation of Palestinian and Arab land and erection of various types of permanent Israeli projects in occupied Arab territories (settlements as well as other projects) has immensely increased. And so has the number of those Israelis actively involved in acts of provocation, violence and terror. Whether Yigal Amir has or has not received "his orders from God," whether he has or has not plotted the act alone or with others, or whether there will not be more assassination attempts in store, the fact remains that Yigal Amir's literal and symbolic act is a culmination of a phenomenon which has emerged, thrived and prospered in the open. Timothy MacVey and the radical right groups in America may have come as a surprise to the American public (even though the FBI, we are told, has been aware of the presence of some serious underground rightist activities); Yigal Amir's assassination of Rabin may have also come as a total surprise to the Israeli public and the Israeli authorities (in great part because they have not thought it possible for Israelis to inflict acts of violence on other Israelis). But Yigal Amir as an individual, an active member of the forces of "darkness" and "terror," and a phenomenon has been present and visible for sometime. Those, like Yigal Amir, who refuse to respect, see and recognise the presence and rights of Palestinians and Arabs in Palestine and outside it and have no second thoughts about violating the right of Palestinians to property and life will naturally have no second thoughts (and no regrets) about inflicting violence on fellow Israelis who oppose their views. This is one of the hard realities which Israel has to come to terms with in the aftermath of Rabin's tragic departure.

What is equally worrying is the untimely absence (at least the week presence) of peace supporters within the Israeli public. There was a time, paradoxically before the peace process was launched in Madrid 1990, when peace advocates in Israel asserted their position (through rallies, marches, demonstrations, sit-ins, etc.) on almost a daily basis. Since Madrid, however, we have not (ironically) seen much of the peace supporters, lovers and enthusiasts.

Have they taken the peace process for granted? Have they gotten bored? Have they changed their mind about peace? The visible presence of the advocates of peace within the Israeli public has been lacking in force and vigour during those times when it is most needed, i.e. since the launching of the peace process in Madrid, since Oslo, and at the present moment.

The question here is not whether Israel wants peace or not. Obviously, and for reasons which we all know, it does. The mere fact that Rabin was shot at the end of a spectacular peace rally is indicative of Israel's willingness and commitment to the establishment of peace.

Two points, however, ought to be stressed here. Firstly, had peace advocates and supporters in Israel been more active, involved and assertive, the hardliners, extremists and terrorists would not have been so daring, so powerful and so visible. Clearly, the more passive the peace advocates are, the more active the hardliners. In this sense, have not Rabin and Peres been somewhat abandoned, and has not their position been somewhat weakened in light of the growing opposition and extremism which have been given ample room to move, work and manoeuvre freely?

Secondly, had peace advocates and supporters been more active, involved and assertive, the peace process (especially with respect to its Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese tracks) would have moved a lot more comfortably, smoothly and speedily. The closer we get in realising the aims and objectives of comprehensive peace, the less chance there is for the sceptics, cynics, rejectionists, extremists and nihilists on both sides to survive, strengthen and prosper.

Now that Rabin is gone (an event which may or may not have been averted) what ought that portion of the Israeli public which believes in peace to do? The answer to this rhetorical question is obvious: Active support, direct involvement and massive pressure for speedy progress in the peace process. Let those who have been silent during the past few years, speak loudly now. The times are too precious, crucial and critical to spend procrastinating, being too careful and cautious, or being aloof; and the costs are heavy.

The way I see it, we have one of three choices: either we work harder to bring about peace as smoothly and speedily as possible, and thus create the atmosphere in which the extremists and hardliners will slowly but steadily dissolve and disappear; abandon the peace option and let the hardliners and extremists on both sides fight it out and destroy us in the process; or continue to pussyfoot, procrastinate and waste time, and thus allow extremists and hardliners to commit acts such as that committed against Rabin. I have faith that the vast majority opts for the first choice. To this latter end, what is needed now is more real involvement.

Israeli society faces further polarisation

By G.H. Jansen

NOW THAT the initial shock and trauma of the killing of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has faded, along with the laudatory publicity-hype, it becomes possible to step back to assess the man and the legacy he left to his successor Shimon Peres. It is normal for grave-side eulogies to be a string of pious platitudes but they should not represent the man himself, as has happened with Mr. Rabin. It would be shameful to denigrate the memory of a dead man just for the sake of "debunking" thought that can be scandalous fun. But it is a duty to get that memory right.

Thus, it has been said that Mr. Rabin was a "great man," a "great soldier" and a "man of vision." He was none of these. His "greatness" as an individual depended on his evaluation in the two other spheres.

As a soldier he was a competent and experienced commander but is not to be compared with the innovative tacticians like Yigal Alon or Ariel Sharon. And at the climax of his military

career, when he was chief-of-staff, he failed dismally because in the tense two weeks just before the June 1967 war, which enabled Israel to occupy the West Bank, and was unable to command or issue orders. He was relieved of his command for the crucial first week of the war and his place was taken by Ezer Weizman, then the airforce and intelligence chief (the Israeli airforce, trained by Mr. Weizman, struck first and won the war in its first few hours. Moshe Dayan was also brought in as minister of defence to supervise the war efforts).

Mr. Rabin's reputation as a man of vision cannot survive these acts of short-sighted folly on recall. The setting up of the so-called "Security Zone" in South Lebanon, his permitting Jewish settlers to implant themselves in the centre of Hebron and in nearby Kiryat Arba.

Mr. Rabin was a most reluctant and grudging peacemaker and was pulled into the peace process by Mr. Peres and the young Labour Party leaders such as Yossi Beilin, now minister for science and technol-

ogy. What then was Mr. Rabin's contribution to Israel and the peace process? Simply this — that once he realised that the peace process was good and helpful for Israel, he lent it his "security credentials" that is his military credentials. So that if he told his people that a certain risk had to be taken for peace he could persuade most or at least a majority of his people to take that risk.

Unfortunately, Shimon Peres has no military credentials because he has never worn uniform professionally (except perhaps for brief periods of reserve service). And though as a civilian bureaucrat, Mr. Peres did much to build up the formidable Israeli military machine, his lack of military service is an irredeemable draw back, even a defect, especially in a heavily militarised, garrison state like Israel. And nothing can be done to make up for that defect at this stage.

What make Mr. Peres' task more difficult is the new and yet apparent fact that the assassination itself has changed the quality of the perception of Israel by itself and by

others.

Israel has shown itself to be not a European-type state but a Levantine state, just like its neighbours. Violent, turbulent, undisciplined and faction ridden. The killing has turned over the Israeli stone and revealed its grimy underside as a racially arrogant state.

Israel cannot afford to accommodate passively its militias of religious fanatics because they are too challenging and dangerous. And in any case they will challenge the government at the next election in 1996.

So how can the new prime minister deal with and curb the right which has now shown that it can take direct and deadly action? The fact that some Israeli schools have asked the ministry of education for counselling on how to handle students who are not mourning Mr. Rabin's killing but celebrating it shows how deep and wide the poison of hatred and violence has spread.

The only really effective way to deal with the anti-peace campaign of the Right would be for the government to stop or freeze

the peace process which it will not and cannot do.

Countering the peace-making of Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres is the fundamental Jewish and Zionist credo that Jewish land must remain in Jewish hands forever, which is exactly what the right is saying. Mr. Rabin's assassin has said that he killed Mr. Rabin because "he was giving away our land to the Arabs." Note the use of the word "our."

The only basic way for Mr. Peres to stop the right once and for all would be for him to use the educational system to uproot or drastically modify the absurd Jewish/Zionist myth that Biblical "Eretz Israel" or the "Land of Israel" is Jewish property by Divine right but that would involve the complete secularisation of the schools which the right and the powerful Rabinite would not allow to happen — their opponents' death.

It is being said that Mr. Peres' problems are with Syria and so on and so forth. Those are the problems of yesterday, and perhaps of today, but for

Mr. Peres tomorrow's problem is what to do about the fissured society of the Jewish state, a problem which can only get worse.

Hopeful that Mr. Rabin's killing will reconcile the two sections within Israeli society is liberal sentimentality; it is more likely to sharpen the division for as the killer has said, "We must be cold hearted." The right, temporarily embarrassed by accusations that it produced the climate of hate that made the killing feasible, has cleverly finessed the issue by saying that it regrets the death of the man Yitzhak Rabin while remaining opposed to the policies of Mr. Rabin the politician. U.S. President Bill Clinton has seen the danger of a divided Israel and in his funeral oration pleaded fervently with Israelis not to fight and kill each other.

But the right will be even more opposed to the policies of Shimon Peres who is far more dovish than Mr. Rabin and when it comes to Mr. Peres agreeing to leave the occupied Golan to achieve peace with Syria, half of Israel will simply not obey. The entire peace process could collapse.

The spread of Kurdish nationalism: A new stage in its development

By Robert Olson

THE ENGAGEMENT of Abdullah Ocalan's PKK forces with those of Mas'ud Barzani's KDP peshmergas on Aug. 25 marks a new stage in the development and spread of Kurdish nationalism. Although the PKK and KDP have fought before, notably in 1992, the combat that commenced on Aug. 25 is different. Ocalan's decision to attack the KDP, unlike the earlier conflicts that were largely for tactical military purposes, was an explicit political challenge to the KDP and indirectly to the PUK, the chief Kurdish factions in northern Iraq.

As Ocalan himself stated, the first Drogheba conference in early August was intended not only to negotiate differences between the KDP and the PUK, but "to strangle" the PKK; a strangulation, Ocalan made clear, that was to be executed by the U.S., Europe, Turkey, the KDP and PUK. The strangulation would be made possible by the complete subservience of the Iraqi Kurdish leadership to these players.

The PKK seeks recognition in Iraq

Sami Abdurrahman, a close adviser to KDP leader Barzani, seemed to affirm Ocalan's worst fears when he stated that "northern

Iraq is under the control of the U.S., Britain, France and Turkey." However, the main reason for the KDP's ire, seemed to be Ocalan's demand that the PKK be represented in the Kurdish Regional Government which the Drogheba conference agreed should once again be reconstituted, and in any federation that might be established.

Such a development is rejected by the Iraqi Kurds, especially the KDP, for several reasons. One is that, it limits their claims of Kurdish Regional Government. Second, it means a Kurdish nationalist movement not indigenous to Iraq's borders as established in 1925 is demanding representation within those borders which for the last three decades have been dominated by the KDP and PUK. To accept Ocalan's demand would mean that the PKK would become a *de jure* part of the Iraqi Kurdish nationalist movement in Turkey. Either development would reduce the almost exclusive dominance that they have exercised over Kurdish politics in Iraq since World War II.

The KDP and PUK also know that such developments are opposed to U.S., European and Turkish policies (in the case of Turkey unwillingly) to develop Kurdish autonomy in northern Iraq. The American, European and Turkish support for such autonomy is

conditioned on the premise that the KDP and PUK will not support the PKK or other Kurdish nationalist organisations in Turkey.

The PKK's demand to be included in the reconstituted regional assembly is especially threatening to the KDP for two major reasons. One, the PKK and the KDP are territorially contiguous and, two, both organisations are rivals for the mostly Kurdish-speakers of the territories they control. The Iraq-Turkey international border of 1925 is of little importance in this context. The PKK's demand effectively ignores this border and would impact directly on the KDP's ability to maintain control over the territory it now holds. The PUK is less directly threatened; its territory is not contiguous with that of the PKK and the territory it controls is inhabited largely by Sorani-speakers.

Ocalan's demand for inclusion in the Kurdish Regional Government is in direct opposition to U.S., European and Turkish policies. For the Americans and Europeans, it upsets their efforts to attempt to create a weak Iraq, shorn of one third of its former national territory and acquiescent to Saudi Arabia, Europe and the U.S. Such an Iraq would also meet Israeli requirements for a new Middle East. Second, the inclusion of the PKK in the

set-up would complicate further European and U.S. relations with Turkey. PKK representation in northern Iraq would mean *de jure* recognition that the PKK is a legitimate organisation. In Turkey the PKK is legally defined, and fought, as a terrorist organisation.

The PKK's challenge

Therefore, if the Iraqi Kurds agreed that the PKK should be represented in the regional parliament, they would jeopardise their relationship with the U.S. and Europe; it would effectively terminate their relationship with Turkey. Such a development would increase the legitimacy of the PKK. The KDP and PUK are mindful that they represent some, at the most two million, Kurds in northern Iraq and, perhaps, enjoy the support and goodwill of another one million Kurds elsewhere in Iraq. The PKK, however, is supported strongly by, at least, 50 to 60 per cent of the people of southeast Turkey, as even a recently published Turkish government-sponsored report acknowledges, and enjoys the support of several million more Kurds living in other areas of Turkey; it enjoys the goodwill of many of the 12 million Kurds in Turkey.

The PUK and the KDP do not want to get into a legitimacy contest with the powerful PKK and in-

creasingly powerful Kurdish nationalist sentiments of the Kurds in Turkey. If they do, they recognise, quite rightly, that their legitimacy is bound to diminish. The PKK has had a programme of systematically propagandising among the Kurmanji-speaking Kurds of northern Iraq, especially in areas where they had or have been able to establish camps, since 1991 when, as a result of the Gulf war, they were able to take advantage of the collapse of the Iraqi state's security system. The attempt of the PKK to establish grassroots legitimacy among the Kurds of northern Iraq is a direct challenge and threat to the PUK and KDP, especially the latter.

The PKK challenge to the KDP in northern Iraq also means that the U.S. and Europe must continue to support, militarily and financially, Turkey's harsh and brutal war against the PKK in southeast Turkey and, if recent reports are correct, against the PKK's attempts to establish their organisation in Hatay. It goes without saying that the Americans and Europeans will pursue such policies, for the reasons mentioned above, all the while decrying Turkey's "human rights abuses" against the Kurds within Turkey and now, ironically, in northern Iraq as a result of the large Turkish military incursions in March and July. Several

thousand Turkish military personnel.

The demand of the PKK to be represented in the Kurdish Regional Government is a brilliant ploy of Abdullah Ocalan to not only upset the strategies of the Drogheba conference, but also to challenge the configuration of the political boundaries that are envisaged for the region.

The challenge to the KDP and PUK is clear; if the PKK were to be represented in northern Iraq, it would be the second parliament in which it would be represented. The PKK is already the strongest represented Kurdish nationalist organisation in the Kurdish Parliament-in-Exile in The Hague, The Netherlands. The PKK has accomplished this while the KDP and PUK have yet to set up an agreed constitutional parliament capable of administering the territories they control. Sami Abdurrahman, Mas'ud Barzani's spokesman, stated that the PKK's demand to be included in the northern Iraqi regional parliament "was a pipedream: they (the PKK) are not from us. For them to want to have a place in our parliament is laughable."

Robert Olson is professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic History at the University of Kentucky. The above article is reprinted from Middle East International.

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t Olson is preside e Eastern and t- ry at the Univer- nity. The above s- reprinted from East International

Weekender



Jordan Times, October 5, 1995

4

Published Every Thursday

Society on the Move

The chain of cooperation links far and wide

Ambassador Nasouh Majali, who returned from his post in Toronto, Canada, in mid-September will soon head for Damascus as ambassador plenipotentiary to Syria. The former minister of information and culture had earlier served as ambassador to Iraq. Although it is true that Damascus brings him much closer to home than Toronto, Mr. Majali says he is looking forward to his new assignment because "I think Syria is a very important neighbour." Mr. Majali will leave for Syria within two weeks with his wife Haya and their two younger children. He was accorded a nice send-off on Tuesday evening when a huge crowd of ministers, parliamentarians and friends, including a couple of former prime ministers (Zeid Rifai and Abdul Salam Majali), turned up at a farewell dinner he hosted on the occasion of his taking up his new duties. Mr. Majali had served as minister of information in the first Cabinet of Sharif Zeid in 1989 and before that as advisor at the Royal Court, having headed the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation for a few years. To this day, Mr. Majali maintains good links with the media, particularly by continuing to contribute occasional articles to Jordanian newspapers on Arab issues.

THE END OF A DOBERS DECADE: Hubert Dobers is leaving his Amman-based post as representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF) in Jordan, the autonomous occupied territories of Palestine, and Lebanon. The KAF, representing the Christian Democratic Union, is one of the political foundations in Germany. The 65-year-old Dobers came to Jordan only three years before the turning point events of 1989 and the country's lunge into the democratic march. Since then he has worked on supporting several projects including a series of seminars in the field of political education: "Democracy and the Rule of Law," with the active participation of HRH Crown

Prince Hassan; seminars on political parties for the improvement of the parliamentary work in Jordan, in cooperation with Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre; a seminar on the role of the media, in cooperation with the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan; and a conference on the role of women in the democratic process of Jordan, in cooperation with the General Federation of Jordanian Women. The former lawyer and judge spent nine years working on international cooperation in Africa, first for the German Volunteer Service, later with KAF. From 1979 until his arrival in Jordan he was responsible for cooperation with the Arab World at the KAF head office in St. Augustin, Germany. Mr. Dobers and his wife Jacqueline say that it is with mixed feelings they leave Jordan, "which in more than nine years and nine months, we have come to love dearly." The couple are hosting a reception next Wednesday evening at the Regency Palace Hotel to say good-bye to their friends and associates in Jordan and also to introduce Olaf Kündgen who will succeed Mr. Dobers as of Dec. 1. Mr. Kündgen, who is single and will turn 34 this month, has a masters in Islamic Studies from the Freie Universität in Berlin. Before coming to Amman he spent two years as an assistant to the KAF in Cairo. He speaks English, French and Arabic, wrote his masters thesis on Islamic penal law in Sudan, and may prove to be somewhat of a culinary artist as well for having worked as a cook in New York and Los Angeles in his early 20s. The Konrad Adenauer Foundation may soon have company as we have learned that plans are under way to open an office in Amman of the Hans Siedel Foundation, the political foundation of the Christian Socialist Union of Germany. The work of this institution in Jordan, pending Ministry of Social Development approval, will focus on vocational training of experts. Farewell, Herr und Frau Dobers, and Willkommen Kündgen.

GOING OUT WITH FLAIR: Well under way are receptions and dinners bidding farewell to Italian Ambassador Romualdo Bettini and his wife Amparo who are returning to Rome where Dr. Bettini will take on his new post as deputy chief of protocol of the Italian government. On the lists of hosts is Mrs. Hind Sherif Nasser who is organising a reception on Saturday at her new Jordanian arts and crafts centre, called Artisana. There Mrs. Nasser is arranging for a recital by musicians from the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation to thank Dr. Bettini for his continuous support of projects that keep alive the special talents and crafts of the Jordanian people. Mrs. Nasser describes her private venture as a place to find arts and craft for personal and home use. She also says that it will be open to innovative ideas of local artists and artisans. Another event includes a dancing party where the dress code/colour is red. Now, that's flair with a flare.

SHARING IN THE FESTIVITIES: Starting Saturday, the Embassy of Pakistan will host several major events meant to participate in Jordan's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, says Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi. Under the patronage of HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, the Royal Society of Fine Arts in cooperation with the Pakistan National Council of Arts will present a paintings and photographs exhibition from Nov. 11-25 at the National Gallery of Fine Arts. The exhibition, entitled "Pakistani women of substance in paintings and photographs," consists of more than 70 paintings by contemporary women painters of Pakistan and 25-30 photographs of women's activities all over the state of Pakistan. On Nov. 12 at 4:30 p.m. Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania will inaugurate a single-country trade fair under the theme, "Made in Pakistan," at Al Bassam Exhibition Centre of King Abdullah Gardens. The fair will be the first single-country exhibition from Pakistan in

Jordan and will consist of Pakistani export products from 40 major companies. And the items will be available for sale. Again under the patronage of Princess Sarvath, a performance of Pakistani folk dances, classical dances and instrumental music will be staged at the Royal Cultural Centre on Nov. 17, 18 and 20. And concluding the two weeks of events will be a display of Pakistani ladies' jackets at the Marriott Hotel arranged by the House & Garden Club of Jordan.

DESERVING MENTION: Not related to the plans of the embassy but certainly Pakistan-related is another letter to the editor, among the few others that have come in to the paper, congratulating the Jordan Times on its 20th anniversary. We thought that publishing all the letters we actually did receive would be perceived as overly basking in our own glory, but we are so moved by many of those who took the time to write to us that we could not resist acknowledging their salutations. The three letters we selected to highlight were signed by Zaid Ahmad Muhaisen, president of the Pakistan Graduates Club in Jordan, Fayez Abul-Enein, general manager of the Bank of Jordan, and Dr. Salah Salah and family. In his letter, Dr. Salah, who is an old friend of the newspaper, said "My family and myself are now almost 17 years in Jordan. The single most consistent daily acquirement of value was and is the Jordan Times." And Mr. Abul-Enein wrote "The dedicated efforts you put in covering topics of real interest to the readers in an objective manner as well as your distinguished journalistic performance are highly commendable and appreciated." Perhaps it's time to consider a "Friends of the Jordan Times Society."

Jennifer Hamarnah

Fashion's new romantic Galliano shakes up Givenchy

By Lee Yanowitch
Reuter

PARIS — The Paris fashion set calls British designer John Galliano a genius for his wildly romantic, superbly crafted collections, but his own attire is something else. He styles his hair in dozens of tiny braids and sports a vague strip of a moustache. His lemon yellow leather biker's suit is unzipped, the upper-half flopped down over his hips revealing a "John Galliano" muscle T-shirt. "It's just a look," says Galliano, 34. "I'm not allowed to ride a motorbike because of my precious fingers." Galliano, who has his own fashion house, is to unveil his first collection for the legendary Givenchy label in January, replacing Hubert

De Givenchy, who stepped down after 40 years at the top of the profession. A few days after the summer ready-to-wear shows, Galliano's showroom, in a dusty alley next to the Bastille Opera, is buzzing with buyers and journalists. A model listlessly emerges from behind a curtain in one of his stunning outfits. "The dresses are supposed to make you want to dream, to dance," he sighs. The draped neckline of one Belle Epoque dress curves upwards to melt into a wide-brimmed hat — there is no separation between the two. On a bias-cut gown — Galliano's tour de force — layers of smoky chiffon converge at the bust, of all places, and swirl into an orchid. Nothing is tacked on: The dress and decoration are all one piece. Some of the clothes are

actually couture — sewn entirely by hand and impossible to reproduce in a factory. The motif, on a grandiose, seamless black ballgown is not printed but stitched in another fabric, right down to the veins on each leaf. The technique is mind-boggling. "It's passion. Blood, sweat and tears," he giggles. "Sometimes I cry." A lot of ink has been expended on Galliano's lifestyle. The fashion press talks of his exuberant nightlife, unpredictability and instability, and worries about whether he'll have the discipline to last at Givenchy. This exasperates him. "I do love going out. I work hard and I play hard. Music, dance, film — they're all part of my inspiration. I think the people at Givenchy would be worried

if I stopped," he says. "They should just come and see the clothes," he adds, lighting a cigarette with quick, jerky gestures. "Is this a collection by someone who is undisciplined? Just let me do it!" Indeed, Galliano asked Givenchy President Richard Simonin if he should cut his hair. "Absolutely not," Simonin replied. But the devilish appearance is just the outer shell of a sensitive, fragile interior. "I'm deeply religious. Roman Catholic. I pray to God every night and every morning. God gives me strength," he says. It was Bernard Arnault, chairman of Givenchy's owner, French luxury giant LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, who picked Galliano. With Christian Lacroix, Arnault has two of fashion's most gifted young

designers. He seems the polar opposite of Givenchy, whose classic designs were most at home on a conservative matronly clientele. Arnault chose Galliano to create a stir and the young designer is working hard to prove himself reliable. Last season he was among the first to deliver department store orders. Galliano tells the story of his spring-summer 1996 collection — there is always a story — beginning with a boat full of schoolgirls out at sea which starts to sink. "Its about unconscious beauty — a girly version of lord of the flies. These girls swim to safety in their school uniforms and Sunday best," he says. Hence the rattlesnake necklaces and Indian feathers strung on a choirboy's robe. When the girls are rescued

from the deserted island, one of them is adopted by Maria Cassati, the muse of the 19th-century Italian painter Boldini, who sends her to the Paris conservatory, where she becomes a ballerina. "Strong," he says of the woman he dresses. "In control of her own destiny. And romantic." Born in Gibraltar, Galliano's family moved to the south London suburb of Battersea in 1966. He was an outsider at school, before being admitted to the prestigious Central St. Martin's School of Art and Design in London where he finally chose clothing design as a subject. Friends from that time say it was clear even then that he would become a major talent. At St. Martin's he met Lady Amanda Harlech, his wispy muse and soul-

mate who will be creative director at Givenchy. "We bounce ideas off each other. And she's a superb colourist. She lives in the country and so isn't a part of the fashion world which gives her a better perception. She's my Diaghilev," he says with an impish grin. Galliano moved to Paris in 1992 to be nearer fashion's epicentre. He struggled at first, sometimes helped by patrons such as Portuguese socialite Sao Schlumberger, who loaned him her Paris mansion for a show in March 1994. Last year, John Bult, chairman of Painewebber International, gave him financial backing to move into the atelier he now occupies and produce two fashion collections a year. Galliano has always dreamed of having his own couture house, so the

Givenchy job is a gift from heaven. "I will respect what he did, but inject some modernity, freshness, and a bit of Galliano. Strike a balance," he says. Each season, Galliano goes to London for a week before starting his own collection, hunting for inspiration at the Victoria and Albert Museum, art exhibitions and libraries. But the groundwork for Givenchy will be done in Paris. "It's very important to keep two separate identities. You won't be seeing any bias-cut at Givenchy," he says. The sudden ascension to fashion's hall of fame sometimes takes its toll. "I get freaked when there are a lot of people in here," Galliano admits. "I'm really just a dressmaker."

Dodi Tabbaa — No rules, no boundaries but a lot of variety

By Melanie Wise

HAVING BEEN introduced to this unconventional artists' works a couple of years back, at a joint exhibition in this very same room, I was expecting a wave of déjà-vu, only to my surprise it turned out to be a combination of déjà-vu with a magical experience of the world of colour, line and form, boldly displaying a new ecstatic dimension much more vivid and almost mystical. After a 20-year hiatus from printmaking, Dodi Tabbaa blazes back into the art scene with an exhibition of her latest prints, woodcuts, etching and lion-cuts, many of them produced at the graphic studios of Darat Al Funun and in the Madrid studio of printmaker Denis Long, entitled "Variations on Graphics+ 93-95," currently on show at the French Cultural Centre, it is a virtuoso performance, her trademark vitality upgraded with a new maturity. "Exuberant," "graphic," "energetic," "chaotic," "endlessly inventive." These are words that have often been used to describe Ms. Tabbaa's work. While the descriptions are appropriate, they always seem somewhat insufficient; however clichéd it may

sound, Ms. Tabbaa's works are all of the above and more. They reflect an artistic sensibility in a constant state of flux, experimenting, searching, evolving and fusing a dazzling prism of influences, insights, dreams and emotions. This was an exhibition reflecting the modern mind's search for a deeper relationship with shapes and strokes derived and inspired from music, nature and the environment. She seems to have successfully attempted to transform her colourful visions into a survey of moods depicted in the works from 1993 to 1995. "Variations on Graphics+" features a series of prints with a difference. While printmaking traditionally involves repeated pressings of the same plate, each one no different from the other, save for its sequence in the series, her bold approach to the medium results in no two prints being identical. A plate is used no more than three or four times, and each print is a bonafide original artist's print (A/P), individually treated, worked on and coloured by the artist. Hence, the theme of variations. The confident mix of colours — a rich palette of

blues, greens, ochres, yellows and purple, highlighted by stark black — and ink wash, light or heavy pressure, intaglio, flat with normal etching, juxtaposition of two plates — is a bravado performance, anesting to the Dodi Tabbaa's undeniable talent and versatility. As the artist herself explains, "I suppose you could say that I'm a rebel of sorts. I don't really follow rules. I like variety. I think it brings a new fresh-

ART REVIEW

ness and perspective to each print I create. The creative process for me does not end once the plate has been pressed. In fact, that's just the beginning. I think what I tried to relay in my work are the images born out of the intuitive symbols of an experience either in the past or the present which have remained hauntingly present-causing an outburst at certain intervals in my daily life. Tracings and rubbings of materials from leaves, wood, pencil shavings, fabrics, to even sewer covers provide imagination with an initial stimulus... and then the scribbles, sketches, brush strokes, ink wash-

es enter into unexpected associations." There is a spontaneity in her work, and she wonders whether perhaps unconsciously, there is some sort of internal control involved. And in general, her prints seem to present a universe of unbridled passions and impulsive reactions, a wild imagination let loose. Yet there is in her work an unsettling element inviting reflection on the tension between chaos and order. By way of explanation in her woodcuts, she quotes one of her favourite artists, Hans Hartung: "A single line, violent, passionate, broken or beautifully calm, regular, uniform, conveys what we are feeling. It corresponds to what we are living through." On the other part of the woodcut, she has paid tribute to American artist, Barnett Newman, by inscribing his words. These series of woodcuts are combined with inkwash. In sharp contrast to the earlier maze of opalescent colours and kaleidoscopic forms, this series is largely monochromatic, cerebral, contemplative, at times almost mystical. Producing the huge woodcuts, she confesses, "Was a bit tedious, as they involved a lot of work, but I had help from a

friend — the result is a rather exciting surprise." The "plus" is the intriguing "Jigsaw" series, six cardboard cut-outs which explore the relationship between space and mass, pattern and line. From a distance, the feeling conveyed is one of lightness and air, amorphous forms floating against gravity. Come closer and the overlapping cardboard pieces come into view: Expressiveness reined in by austerity. Ms. Tabbaa then offers a work of diptychs, a translation of the cut-outs onto canvas. The overall impact of the endless variations reveal the depth of expression of an artist with a sure, sharp sense of colour, texture and line. A mesmerising fusion of artists as diverse as Jackson Pollock, Miro, and Keith Haring, spiced up with a dash of African primitivism, Oriental minimalism, and graffiti scrawlings, Tabbaa's art is inspired by everything and anything, from the mundane to the sublime. Her poetic equivalent would be Gerald Hopkins and his dazzling word-play, in music the multi-layered fugues of Bach, and the syncopated Jazz rhythms of Gershwin, Duke Ellington and George W.

Winston. Pakistani by birth, Bangladeshi by heritage and Jordanian by marriage, educated both in the East and West, Dodi Tabbaa has long been a strong presence on the local art scene. A member of the Jordanian Artists Association, she began her career as a graphic designer. "I had to earn my living, like everyone else!" she says. Countless exhibitions later, Ms. Tabbaa enjoys both critical and popular acclaim as an artist of many facets — painter, printmaker, colourist, paper constructor, art consultant, textile designer — working in an astounding variety of media. While her work is recognisable, it is never stagnant. "As an artist, I'm always exploring new avenues of expression," she states. "I can't bear to do the same things I was doing two years ago. To me, that's regression, not growth." To prove her point, she quotes the late French artist Yves Klein: "Artists who wish to save their personality at any cost will kill their spiritual selves and lose their lives. Art should be an open channel for penetration by impregnation in the sensibility of the immaterial space of life itself."



One of the works on display by Dodi Tabbaa

In Dodi's case, life — and art — clearly conquers all. The exhibition ends on Nov. 30. Melanie Wise is a free-

lance cultural journalist who has contributed articles to several international publications in the Middle East and South East Asia.

The sound barrier

By Jean-Claude Elias

Imagine the disastrous impact you would make going to an important meeting or an interview and suddenly finding yourself speechless. I mean literally unable to speak. This is how your computer must feel — and you thought it had no feelings at all — when it tries to tell you something and cannot say a word. Instead it just displays some message on the screen, hoping you will take notice of it and react accordingly.

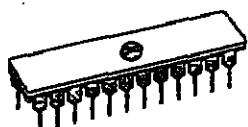
Speech is becoming an increasingly important means of communication between the user and its PC. Twenty years ago, computer operators didn't have nice monitors (screens), mice or even keyboards as we know them now, to talk to the machine. A slow and unfriendly console, similar to an early telex device, was all they had to give instructions and send commands to computers. The machine would talk back by displaying hieroglyphic messages either on the telex unit itself or in the form of series of small lights on the computer's front panel.

These days are gone now. To send (input) commands or information to PCs we use keyboards, mice, joysticks or scanners. To receive (output) data from PCs, we have screens, printers and plotters. Until approximately 1985, sound, an extremely friendly way to communicate with machines for input and output, had been much neglected. The Apple Macintosh was the first equipment to provide practical solutions in this regard. Its very own design, built on Motorola processors helped achieve quality sound processing. On the other hand, its brother, the IBM compatible PC has been a poor follower, until the beginning of this decade.

Each computer application has hardware and software requirements. Software for the processing of sound has been refined over the past couple of years to the point that users can have CD-like quality speech and music on their PCs. To enjoy the quality of hi-fi stereo sound computers are able to playback, a pair of speakers is necessary, in addition to what is called "a sound card". These items are not usually supplied with the machine.

Most sound cards give satisfactory results, but it is more difficult to pick up a good pair of speakers. A wide variety of PC speakers are available on the market. It starts with very cheap models, at about JD10 a pair (hardly bet-

chip talk



ter than the computer's terrible built-in speakers) to true hi-fi systems costing more than JD300. Naturally one can take the audio output from the computer's sound card and channel it to a full-sized home stereo system. Though obviously giving the best results and yielding a lot of power, this solution is not very practical. A set of dedicated speakers, always attached to the PC is what one needs.

A comparison of 10 different PC speaker models sold in Jordan shows that a reasonable, yet quality solution is in the JD80 to JD100 range, for the pair. The sound produced by speakers in the JD10 to JD20 range is very similar to playing drums on a tin can, while units costing between JD20 and JD80 are just acceptable. Compared to the initial price of a PC, saving such a little amount of money and being stuck with poor sound quality doesn't make much sense.

Speakers are the most critical components in a sound system. Speech synthesis is now often used in PC applications. Simple software is being distributed free-of-charge that reads back the numbers you would input in a spreadsheet like Excel — a very convenient feature for those who need to double check long lists on figures without having to constantly look up and down from the screen to their desk. The average cost of a CD-ROM disk is JD40 to JD50, and the best selling sound card is available at JD100. By comparison, quality speakers are relatively inexpensive, given their importance.

Allocate enough money to purchase good speakers. You will be rewarded with clean sound, clear speech and enjoyable music. And who knows, the very first words your PC will say may well be "thank you".

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

FACTS



The Kennedy-Lincoln Coincidence

Kennedy was elected in 1960
 * Lincoln was elected in 1860
 Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln
 Lincoln's secretary name was Kennedy
 Both secretaries advised their presidents not to go to the palaces where they were assassinated. Both men were shot in the presence of their wives.
 The successor of each president was named Johnson — Andrew Johnson, born 1808; Lyndon Johnson born 1909.
 Of the two assassins, Booth was born in 1839, Oswald was born in 1939. Both men were killed before they could be tried.
 Both presidents were deeply concerned with the Civil Rights problem of their particular time.
 Lincoln and Kennedy were carried to their graves on the same caisson!

MR. MCTAVISH: "Have you tried the doctor?"
 MRS. MCTAVISH: "Aye. He can do nothing."
 MR. MCTAVISH: "Better call in the minister, then. He can get money out of anybody."

* TEACHER: "What's the difference between audacity and impudence?"
 PUPIL: "Audacity is to have a meal at a restaurant and flee without paying the bill!"

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What term is applied to a man who makes or repairs wooden barrels?
2. The bird Pica Pica is fond of bright things. What is its more familiar name?
3. Which British prime minister was assassinated in the lobby of the House of Commons in 1812?
4. Who was president of France throughout World War I?
5. Which of the planets has two satellites, Triton and Nereid?
6. What is a viviparous creature?
7. What great catastrophe occurred on Aug. 24, AD 97?
8. What is the name of the Italian city that stands on the River Po and was once capital of the Kingdom of Italy?

PUZZLES

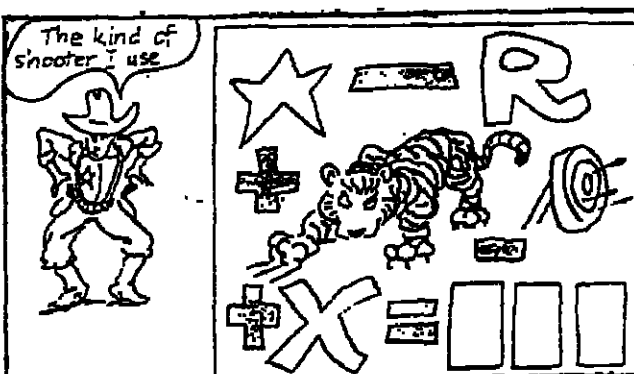
LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— I wake up around seven o'clock.
 Astayqeth hawali as'sa'a sabe'a.
 — I shave and have a bath before breakfast.
 Ahliq thaqui wa'astahim qabialiftar.
 — I wash my face, brush my teeth and go back to the bedroom to dress.
 Aghsil wajhi, wa'onaziff asnani bil'furshat thumma a'oudu ala hujratin'awama le'albess.
 — I comb my hair carefully and get ready to have my breakfast?
 Amshut sha'ri be'enaya wa'asta'id letana-woll al-lftar.
 — Then I sit and read my morning paper.
 Ba'da thalek ajless wa'aqra jareedatas's-abah.
 — Finally I say goodbye to my family and make for my office.
 Wa'akhiran aqool wada'an le'osrati wa'atawajjahu ala maktabi.

JOKES

* CANDY: "When I graduated from college the dean told me the world had an opening for me."
 TUFT: "Did you find it?"
 CANDY: "You bet. I'm in a heck of a hole right now."

* MRS. MCTAVISH: "What will I do! What will I do! My little John had swallowed sixpence."



Reflections from the edge

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

— "Is this where the queue starts?" said the smartly dressed woman who walked into my local Housing Bank branch the other day.
 — "Sorry, what was that you said?" replied the unsuspecting bank clerk.
 — "The queue. Where does the queue start?"
 — "I don't know what you mean." Came the expected answer.

There has been no better time for us, as a people and as individuals, to slow down, take it easy, and think about where we have come from, what has become of us and why we have become what we are so as to contemplate as to where it is we want to go from here. There truly seems no better time to indulge in a slight amount of self-reflection.

We are told that the general economic outlook is as good as it ever will be. But can we honestly think of ourselves as being prepared, culturally, mentally, and morally, for all the changes that are about to come our way?

Everybody is busy preparing their CVs, filling out application forms and seeking funding for research and "beneficial" projects. Everybody is doing it. And I do mean everybody. For such purposes credentials are naturally an important asset, and a track record of success and excellence should suffice. But does it? A great deal of

hard work is also, quite naturally, called for. But alas, that too is not enough. It sure helps give you a decent push if you happen to have a lot of money to start with as there always seems to be someone, or something, that gets to the top before you do. Something that jumps the queue. But then again, what is a queue anyway?

"They will come for you eventually." You would have been told. But you cannot afford to hang around doing nothing waiting for your turn amidst the queue jumpers. Can you?

To keep moving on trying harder and harder seems to be the best thing to do. But where to go on from here? You have certainly achieved everything that was ever expected of you. And much more for that matter. At least that was what you thought.

In the lowered and troubled gazes, one may clearly make out some of the invisible webs that we as people are liable to stumble upon as we make our way through the valleys of doubt and fear. But wisdom demands that we improve our situation, improve our relations and be a part of everything and under everyone else's skin.

What is needed above everything else is wisdom of the heart. For when the day's catch is laid on the table we must not forget to be selective. But the fictional character in a work of fiction cannot do anything on its own without the knowledge and approval of the writer. But what it can do is to expose the absurd in ordinary everyday situations so as to force the onlookers to seek a truer and a more essential life for themselves.

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Nov. 9, 1995

- 1:00 Iris - The Happy Professor
- 1:20 Fireman Sam
- 1:45 The Hurricanes
- 2:15 My Secret Identity
- 3:00 The New Leave It to Beaver
- 3:30 Gillette World Sport
- 4:00 White Heat
- 5:00 French Programme
 Sophie Et Virginie
- 5:30 Varieties And Game Show
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Carol's Company
- 8:00 The Album Show
- 9:10 The New Avengers
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie — Double Edge
 Starring: Robert Urich & Susan Lucci
- 12:10 The Thorn Birds

- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Nurses
- 8:00 Dive The World
- 8:15 The American Chart Show
- 9:05 Varieties
- 9:30 Heartbeat
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie — "Ghost"
 Starring: Patrick Swaye & Demi Moore
- 12:00 Nutcracker
 Music show on ice

Monday, Nov. 13, 1995

Friday, Nov. 10, 1995

- 1:00 Little Mermaids
- 1:30 Beethoven
- 1:45 The Ronn Lucas Show
- 2:15 Gold Rush in Alaska
- 3:30 Bush School
- 4:00 French Programme
 Sophie Et Virginie
- 5:30 Telefilm
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- 7:30 Sports Et Musique
- 7:35 News Headlines
- 7:35 Coach
- 8:00 African Skies
- 8:30 Natural Wonders Of Europe
- 9:10 Wolf
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Buccaneers
- 11:30 Movie — Over The Moon
 Starring: Robert Douglas & Rea Hainson

- 2:00 Inspector Gadget
- 2:30 Playabout
- 2:45 Hey Dad
- 3:05 Feature — "Copacabana"
- 5:00 French Programme
 Fractales
- 5:30 Serie
 Maria Vandamme
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 I Love Lucy
- 8:00 You Bet Your Life
- 8:25 On The Banks of Jordan
- 9:10 Al-Husseini... A World Tribute
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 The Wall (Roger Waters In Concert)

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 1995

Saturday, Nov. 11, 1995

- 2:00 Back To The Future
- 2:30 Harry And The Hendersons
- 3:00 Blue Heelers
- 3:45 Only In Hollywood
- 4:10 I Love Lucy
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 French Programme
 Fractales
- 5:30 Varieties
 Les Geants De Music-Hall
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- 7:30 Faut Pas Rever
- 7:35 News Headlines
- 8:00 Major Dad
- 8:00 First Flights
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie: "Maid In America"
 Starring: Susan Clark & Alex Kares
- 12:00 L'histoire Secrete Du Petrole
- 12:30 My Good Friend

- 2:00 Snoopy Come Home
- 2:30 The Ronn Lucas Show
- 3:00 Feature — "Vice Versa"
 Starring: Judge Reinhold & Fred Savage
- 4:30 Step By Step
- 5:00 French Programme
 Variety And Entertainment
 Faites La Fate
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- 7:30 Ushuaia
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Keeping Up Appearances
- 8:00 The Royal Variety Performance
- 9:20 Prism
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:30 Movie: "New York Stories"
 Starring: Nick Nolte & Giancarlo Giamini

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1995

Sunday, Nov. 12, 1995

- 2:00 The Flintstones
- 2:30 Joshua Jones
- 2:45 Droopy Master Detective
- 3:10 The Ronn Lucas Show
- 3:35 Puywall's Summer
- 4:00 I Love Lucy
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 French Programme
 Fractales
- 5:30 Entertainment
 Surprise
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- 7:30 Sports Et Musique

- 2:00 People
- 2:55 A Kind Of Magic
- 3:20 Liza Manelli
- 5:00 French Programme
 Fractales
- 5:30 Jeux
 Pago Pago
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- 7:30 Sports Et Musique
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 8:00 Feature — "Outrageous Fortune"
 Starring: Shelley Long & Bette Midler
- 9:20 Facts About Jordan
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie — "Top Gun"
 Starring: Tom Cruise & McGillis
- 12:00 Grace Under Fire

Beatles legacy lasting a lifetime

By David Bauder
The Associated Press

IT'S HARD to imagine that the Beatles were once considered dangerous.

The long hair, the "yeah-yeah-yeahs," the drugs, the confuses of albums in Alabama because John Lennon once said they were more popular than Jesus Christ, led many to believe the Beatles were a sure sign that civilization was going down the drain.

Today they are cultural icons, worshipped as fervently — if not as peculiarly — as Elvis Presley.

And, most unexpectedly, they're back.

The three surviving ex-Beatles have collaborated on the most intense self-examination since their 1970 breakup. A six-hour TV documentary will air later this month, quickly followed by the release of three separate two-CD packages of rare recordings from studio vaults.

They include the closest thing we'll get to a reunion: Two songs left behind by the late Lennon polished into "new" Beatles songs in the studio by Paul McCartney, George

Harrison and Ringo Starr.

The Beatles never truly left, in terms of the millions of people who continue to be fascinated by them and the long shadow their influence still casts on rock 'n' roll.

Catch a Beatles song on the radio and the words come instantly to mind, even if it's been years since you've heard them. Yesterday, Help Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds. Get Back. Something. Hey Jude.

"They represent so many different things," said Mark Lewisohn, author of six books on the Beatles. "For some, they represent the epitome, the best of pop music. For others, they represent growing up in the '60s. For me, it all comes down to music at the end of the day. I don't think we would be talking about them so much if it wasn't for the fact that their music was, and still is, quite wonderful."

So much in today's popular music landscape can be traced, at least in part, to the work of the Beatles: performers who write their own material, musicians who use the studio as creative can-

vasses, concerts in baseball stadiums, videos to promote new songs.

Blame or credit them, even, for Michael Bolton's flowing locks. The singer said he first grew his hair long because the Beatles made it cool.

The Beatles' first American appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, on Feb. 9, 1964, may have done more to guide future careers than a year's worth of talking by school guidance counselors.

"When I saw the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show, I looked at them and said, 'That's it. That's what I want to do,'" recalled singer Billy Joel, then a teenager on Long Island.

He wasn't alone. Natalie Cole begged her bemused dad, Nat "King" Cole, for Beatles records. Members of the rock band Genesis said the band convinced them that they could be performers, not just songwriters.

Teenager Declan MacManus was thrilled when his bandleader father, Ross, brought home some Beatle autographs. The boy grew up to be singer Elvis Costello, and got to write

songs with Paul McCartney. The influence endures.

Tanya Donnelly of the Alternative Band Belly knew she wanted to play rock 'n' roll when she saw the movie *Help* on her 14th birthday. It was a movie made before she was born.

The lads from Liverpool even had an influence on heavy metal. "The Beatles were the main reason I wanted to do this," says Charlie Benante, drummer-guitarist-songwriter for Anthrax, who heard his first Beatles song when he was about 2 years old. "I absorbed so much when I was younger and the Beatles were probably the catalyst."

"When I was around 3, almost 4, my mother took me to see A Hard Day's Night and Help she said I sat through it — she had to sit there twice, because I had to see it again. So I guess that's how much they influenced me."

The precocious young Beatles were angry when producer George Martin said another writer's song, How Do You Do It, should be their first single. They preferred their own songs, even though their writing hadn't progressed beyond the simplicity of Love Me Do and Please Please Me.

The rapid advancement of their writing proved those instincts correct, and the Beatles raised songwriting to new heights in rock 'n' roll. Because, before the Beatles and Bob Dylan, it was rare for performers to write their own material. Today, the opposite is true.

"They really established the paradigm of the self-contained group — the group that played its own instruments, wrote its own songs, controlled its own artistic destiny and controlled its own sort of musical packaging," said Robert Palmer, author of the new book, *Rock 'N' Roll — An Unruly History*.

The Lennon-McCartney songwriting team was a perfect blend of rock 'n' roll energy (John) and classic pop smarts (Paul), he said.

Echoes of their melodic style can be heard throughout almost all of today's guitar-based rock 'n' roll. It's beneath the punk energy of green day, the distorted guitars of Nirvana and the bittersweet tunes of the Gin Blossoms. "Beatlesque" is a favourite adjective for critics.

England's hottest new bands, Oasis and Blur, have a "rivalry" that's been compared to the Beatles and Rolling Stones but they agree on one thing: Their debt to the Beatles. Oasis even named a song, *Wonderwall*, after an obscure Harrison solo album.

"It's no longer unhip to say you like the Beatles or that they've influenced you," author Lewisohn said. "As a matter of fact, it's



The surviving Beatles, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and George Harrison in 1995

quite trendy to say that."

But the thought of being a trend was repugnant to the Beatles. And after growing sick of screaming fans drowning out their live performances, they stopped rehearsing toward the end, figuring why bother? John, Paul, George and Ringo retreated to the studio to create what was considered their greatest works.

They invited orchestras to their sessions, dabbled in Indian instruments, used backward tape loops and otherwise experimented with ideas and technology. For the final, 53-second fadeout of *A Day In The Life*, three pianos struck the same note simultaneously. It took nine takes to get it right.

The Beatles competed furiously with peers like Dylan, the Stones, the Beach Boys and Byrds, fostering a dialogue at the top levels of music that is often emulated but never re-created, Palmer said.

"The Beatles opened up this whole atmosphere of experimentation in the context of pop records that for a brief time really flowered in a very public way. ... It didn't happen (for) very long," he said.

Lewisohn was frustrated in researching the Beatles

because it was impossible to find an interview in 1963 or 1964 where their music was taken seriously. That all changed with the release of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band in 1967. Rock 'n' roll was taken seriously as an art form — and the summer of love found its anthem.

This alternately melancholic, terrifying and exhilarating record captured as no other the complex textures of its time: a supercharged, corrosively contradictory summer when hippies grooved at the Monterey Pop Festival, black emotions exploded in riots in Detroit and Newark, and a war grew bloodier in Vietnam.

Youthful listeners somehow heard all of this in Sgt. Pepper — an album whose themes included eastern culture, sweet and terrifying psychedelic fantasies, the widening gulf between young and old and, above all, loneliness.

Sgt. Pepper sold 2.5 million records in its first three months and stayed on the charts for a staggering 113 weeks.

Today, rock music has its own hall of fame (with the Beatles, of course, as mem-

bers), it's the subject of university courses and the latest albums are covered exhaustively in newspapers, magazines and on-line.

And it seems no information is too trivial about the Beatles. Most music sections in book stores have more works on the Beatles than any other artist.

Lewisohn's meticulous tome, *The Complete Beatles Chronicle*, takes 365 pages to detail the band's career day-by-day; which songs they recorded, where they performed, what interviews they gave.

Still, Lewisohn gets dozens of letters from fans who said it wasn't enough. Please give us more.

Even mildly critical remarks bring out fiercely defensive fans. Palmer is still getting flak for the suggestion, in a PBS documentary he recently produced, that maybe rock 'n' roll music didn't need to be "saved" by the Beatles.

For his own safety, don't ask him what he thinks of Sgt. Pepper.

All of this devotion is not lost on Capitol Records executives. They released the Live At The BBC CD last year as a "test run" for the anthology CDs and were stunned when it sold more

than 5 million copies, said Bruce Kirkland, executive vice president.

They always knew the Beatles were loved, but were delighted how the test run transferred into a hunger for new material. They salivate over marketing studies that show the Beatles are the favourite group among VH-1 viewers and the second favourite of MTV viewers — two groups that rarely share the same stereo.

So the Beatles and their representatives have readied a marketing blitz that may make hypemaster Michael Jackson envious. Actually, Jackson will see green either way, since he owns the publishing rights to the Lennon-McCartney catalogue and stands to profit from the new interest.

The plan is centred around making sure 3 million copies of the first CD anthology are in stores by Nov. 20, the day after one of the new Beatles songs, *Free As A Bird*, is first heard on television.

How's the new song? Don't ask Kirkland. He swears security is so tight that he hasn't heard it.

"It turned out fabulous," said one biased observer, Ringo Starr. "It turned out just like the Beatles. Why not?"



The Beatles in 1969

Memling — saintly beauty

By Jean-Marc Dupuis

The painter Memling died in Bruges in 1481. The Belgian town, with which his name is intimately linked, paid homage to him through an exhibition, held, not in the former Hospital Saint-Jean which, for more than five centuries, has housed a large number of his works, but in the Groeninge Museum, which is so rich in Flemish paintings.

PARIS — At that time, Flanders belonged to Burgundy and Bruges was the second capital of the Dukes of Burgundy. Philippe the Good founded the Order of the Golden Fleece there, on the day when he married Isabelle of Portugal. The town thrived. It was an important financial centre and drew Europe's rich bankers and prosperous merchants. Masters, whom historians were later to call the Flemish Primitives, meaning that they were the first ones to exert their talents

"on a panel or on canvas", gave the town its artistic splendour. After Van Eyck, who died in 1441, came the era of Memling, who was celebrated as "the most famous painter in Christendom", as was said in Latin in his funeral eulogy.

Little is known about Memling except that he was born between 1430 and 1440 near Mainz, in that region of Germany called Franconia. He probably studied at the studio of Stefan Lochner in Cologne and he certainly frequented that of Rogier de la Pasture (Van der Weyden) in Brussels. In 1465 he settled in Bruges where he died in 1481. By bringing his own reputation, he certainly contributed to the golden age of the town. But, he also lived through the first decade of the decline, without his creation being affected by it. He opposed permanence and beauty, to wars, disease and famine.

For "all is but order and beauty, luxury and calm" and saintliness. The Middle Ages were Christian and

medieval painting was Christian. Memling painted Virgins, Adorations of the Magi, Passions and Crucifixions. Even in portraits (and he was a sought-after portrait-painter), the subject often adopted a pose in prayer. The rich donors of the religious compositions, abbots and abbesses or bourgeois town-councillors or nobles, are often represented as onlookers to the religious scene, kneeling beneath the protection of their patron saint who can be recognised by his attributes: Saint Catherine's broken wheel and sword, Saint Barbara's tower, Saint Mark's lion, Saint Jerome's lion, Saint Anthony's tau and pig, etc.

11,000 virgins

Painting the order and beauty of the world means revealing the Creator in his creation. Placing the Virgin and Child in front of drapes of honour, beneath a purple velvet canopy with a crown of gold and diamonds, clothing the saints in brocade and dalmatics, means announcing the Kingdom of

Heaven. This luxury is not a sign of debauchery. It is a sober display, an image of Paradise. The bodies are elegant and the faces, showing a serious calm, are in the shape of an ideal oval in which shadows fade away.

But this painter of heavenly beauty is also an attentive realist. Usual or precious objects and numerous musical instruments are depicted with precision. The background of the paintings is taken up by a landscape or a town bustling with everyday activity. In the Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist altar piece (1479), also known by the name of Saint Catherine's Mystical Marriage, in the distance, between two columns framing the religious scene, one can see a crane raising wine casks, measured by the monks of Saint-Jean Hospital.

Memling, faithful to the medieval tradition and carrying it to perfection, also enjoys telling stories. The Passion (1470), kept in Turin, is a masterpiece of the narrative genre. In an

imaginary Jerusalem, but built of real architectural elements, he retraces the different moments of the Passion, placing the flagellation in the centre of the painting and the other events in the niches of the buildings, using the city gates to show the triumphant entry of Christ in the background, in the top left-hand corner, and his fall beneath the weight of the cross, at the bottom on the right, in the foreground.

This art of narrative composition reaches an almost miniaturised climax in Saint Ursula's shrine (1489). On the six panels of the reliquary, Memling relates the naval voyage of the young princess and the eleven thousand virgins who are her companions, and then their martyrdom beneath the arrows of the Huns in Cologne, which can be recognised by its most famous monuments, depicted with as much detail as the costumes, the armour and the rigging.



Jeanne De France having a vision of Virgin Mary and the Child by the Flemish painter Memling

Too many tranquillisers

of work are more vulnerable than those who have a job, "the ratio of regular consumers among housewives is slightly higher than among unemployed

"This study is an important addition to the growing body of evidence indicating a biological basis for homosexuality in some people," said Beth Barrett, spokesperson for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

only British prime minister
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with a personal grievance

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and Stabiae.

ZLES

TARGET + X = SIX

to exercise in longer stretches
es lost about 13 pounds (6
kilogrammes).

PEG: THREE
 — By R.L. Doyle
 VER SEP 1 06
 — Frank N. Stein

[illegible]

STAR - R + TIGER - TARGET - Y - SIX

The West Jerusalem file

In 1948, the Arab residents of West Jerusalem left in a hurry, abandoning thousands of houses and plots of land. This property, now Jewish-owned,

includes some of the most valuable real estate in Jerusalem. With peace, many former owners expect to be compensated — and Jordan's

ambassador to Israel is taking up their case. The following article, which appeared in the Israeli magazine The Jerusalem Report, examines the issue.

By Isabel Kershner
BLOCK 30197, Parcel 48 is an overgrown patch of land near a disused railway track in the now largely gentrified and exclusive West Jerusalem neighbourhood of Baka. Its area of 631 square metres is large enough to build a small apartment block, and it is likely worth a fortune — certainly over \$1 million. The land belongs to the Development Authority, a branch of the Israel Lands Authority — according to Israeli law, at least.

The family of Radwan Hussein Al-Tabakhi has a problem with that. In 1946, Tabakhi, a merchant from Hebron, bought the plot from a Mr. Barakat for 1,425 Palestinian pounds. The details of the transaction are recorded in Israel's land registry which dates back to Ottoman times, and is known by its Turkish name of Tabu.

After the 1948 war, the Tabakhis ended up on the other side of the border, in the West Bank. Like the property of thousands of other Palestinians who fled West Jerusalem and its surrounding villages as a result of the war, or who owned houses and land in the city but lived in the West Bank, the Tabakhi plot lay abandoned. Eventually Radwan's family moved to Amman; all that remained of the Tabakhi connection to Baka was a page in the Tabu ledgers.

In the meantime, the young state of Israel stepped in. Left with whole neighbourhoods of empty houses and abandoned plots, and faced with an influx of Jewish immigrants who desperately needed accommodation, the Knesset passed the Absentees' Property Law in 1950. The law, still in effect, allows for all abandoned property to be held in trust by the state, to be administered by a government appointee known as the Custodian for Absentee Property.

An "absentee" is defined as a person who, at any time between November 29, 1947 and the day on which the state of emergency declared in 1948 ceases to exist, became a national or citizen of an Arab country; visited an Arab country; or simply left his ordinary place of residence in Palestine "for a place outside Palestine before September 1, 1948." Israel has not, to this day, cancelled the state of emergency. Its continued existence is largely theoretical — except when it comes to issues such as military censorship of the press and the Absentees' Property Law.

According to the law, the status of the custodian is the same "as was that of the owner of the property." The custodian may hold on to property, sell it to the Development Authority or lease it out. Any proceeds from these transactions, minus legal and administrative expenses, are to be held in trust by the custodian in a special fund — presumably for the absentees, until the time when the state of emergency is declared over.

Radwan Tabakhi and his heirs may not have known the ins and outs of the law, but they have not forgotten the plot by the railway track. And for the

Tabakhis, after 47 years away, the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty signed 12 months ago changed the whole picture. This summer, they came to Jerusalem from Amman to find out what had happened to their land, learning that in the 1950s, it had been transferred to the Development Authority. "They came to see if, with the peace process, Israel will give up its," relates Radwan Tabakhi's nephew Rubhi, who still lives in Hebron.

The Tabakhis' quest took them to Israeli officials, to Orient House — the Palestinian headquarters in Jerusalem — and to the Jordanian embassy in Tel Aviv. In Jordan, friends had been telling them that if they went to Jerusalem, they would come back with \$4 or \$5 million. This time, they returned to Amman with nothing but a smudgy photocopy of the relevant page from the Tabu registry.

Geographer Khalil Tufakji is the Palestinian point man at Orient House who deals with lands lost and properties claims. On his office wall hangs a map of Jerusalem, with Jewish and Arab neighbourhoods blocked off in primary colours. It is Tufakji who steered the Tabakhis through the Tabu bureaucracy during their visit to Israel, helping them check the registration of their land. He is also keeping a file on their behalf.

Tufakji points out that some of the oldest Jewish residential districts in West Jerusalem — Baka, Talbiah, the German Colony, Katamon — were mainly Arab before 1948. Beneath the renovations and extensions of the past 40 years, the grandeur and graceful proportions of many of the houses are still apparent, making these some of the most sought-after properties on today's market. "When the wealthy people built in those days, they built big," he remarks.

The main thrust of Arab private building in the 1920s and 30s stretched southwest of Jerusalem's centre in the direction of Bethlehem. "The idea," Tufakji notes, "was to link the two."

The issue of Arab property claims in West Jerusalem had lain pretty dormant until Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert publicly pledged earlier this summer that houses in East Jerusalem neighbourhoods that were once Jewish-owned would soon be in Jewish hands again. As a quid pro quo, Faisal Hussein, Yasser Arafat's "captain" in Jerusalem, responded by raising the subject of Palestinian claims in the west — including a claim for Allenby Camp, the site of the future U.S.

Embassy on West Jerusalem's Hebron Road.

The Palestinians for the most part recognise West Jerusalem as Israel's sovereign capital. Politically, the PLO's sights are trained on the east of the city, where Yasser Arafat wants to establish the capital of a future Palestinian state. But that doesn't erase the fact that many Palestinians once owned property in the west.

"Since the peace process, and since Mr. Hussein opened the West Jerusalem file, a lot of people have been turning to us," says Tufakji, a laconic man with mustache and round glasses. "My job is to help them."

Just how much absentee property exists in West Jerusalem — or indeed, in the rest of Israel — seems to be something of a well-guarded state secret. Khalil Tufakji says there are 5,700 Palestinian houses, and claims that within the municipal boundaries of today's West Jerusalem, which includes the one-time villages of Malha, Ein Kerem, Lifta and Beit Safafa, over 70 per cent of the land was once Arab-owned — although it might not all have been properly registered in Tabu, for tax reasons, by its original owners.

Tufakji says his information has been backed up by Meron Benvenisti, a left-wing former deputy mayor of Jerusalem. But Benvenisti, when contacted by the Jerusalem Report, said he has no special knowledge of the subject.

The only person who knows the full extent and real value of absentee property in the city is the custodian himself, Yehzekel Shamas, who has been just eight months on the job. Shamas told the Report that since he deals with personal files, the information he holds is restricted; specific files may only be released by court order. "I rarely agree to meet with journalists," he said on the phone. "This isn't my personal bugbear. I'm covered by the law on this one."

In what are now known as the "old" areas of West Jerusalem, each of the grand mansions has a tale of its own, richly told in the tomes of "Jerusalem Architecture," the six-volume work by Jerusalem architect David Kroyanker.

There's the two-story Villa Harun Al Rashid in the Talbiah neighbourhood, built in 1926 as two apartments for rent in ornate "Thousand and One Nights" style by Hana Bisharah, one of two brothers who owned extensive property in Talbiah. Toward the end of the British Mandate, the house served as a command base for the Royal Air Force. In

May 1948, as Iraqi volunteers waited down the hill in the German Colony for the British to depart, British officers transferred the house to the Hagana. The Hagana couldn't let Talbiah fall, since this was the corridor from the German Colony to Rehavia, home to most of the Jewish national institutions.

Villa Harun Al Rashid, along with dozens of other properties in the area, became "absentee property." In the 1960s, the government housed Golda Meir, then foreign minister, in the upper apartment. Two other ministers lived there during different periods. Situated in a prime location next to what is today the Jerusalem Theatre complex, the house now has a third story and contains luxurious private apartments. (Ironically, the current proprietor of the top floor is a right-winger who flies the Israeli flag permanently at half-mast to protest the peace process).

Then there's "Salameh's palace" — an imposing mansion built in the 1930s by the merchant and building contractor Constantine Salameh, also in Talbiah, close to where the residence of Israel's presidents was subsequently built. Before leaving for Lebanon in 1948, Salameh had the foresight to rent his family home to the Belgian consul general; to this day it serves as a Belgian Consulate annex. Thus Salameh got around the absentee property law and, according to Kroyanker, was recently able to sell this and another Jerusalem property to the Israeli government — presumably for a handsome price.

Publisher Reuven Mass, who was head of the Jewish residents committee of Talbiah in 1948, recalls in his memoirs how, following a shooting incident on the outskirts of Talbiah in May 1948, the neighbourhood emptied of Arab residents overnight. Jewish refugees from battle-torn areas in the north and east of the city started streaming to the neighbourhood and were billeted in the abandoned homes, often four families to an apartment.

During the 1950s and 60s, Kroyanker relates, there was a slow population exchange. Wealthier families who could afford to buy out the refugees and renovate the Arab houses moved in, and turned them into one- or two-family homes. The government took over many apartments, and contractors got rights to whole houses and began to add on floors.

Talbiah is now strictly for the well-heeled. House prices in Jerusalem are already high; but for the much sought-after "Arab

houses," the sky is the limit. "People are specifically interested in acquiring them, but there are hardly any on the market," notes one Jerusalem real estate agent.

In Baka, there is one 12-room, two-story house set in a large garden currently on the market. The asking price: \$2.7 million.

The peace process is beginning to rattle the status quo of almost five decades, during which most abandoned properties were re-registered in Tabu under new ownership. Some are on long-term renewable leases from the Amidar government housing corporation. Many owners have since bought the rights from Amidar. For Israel, this is a true can of worms which, once opened, could have tremendous ramifications. The claims do not stop in West Jerusalem — they extend to Jaffa, to Haifa, and indeed, to villages that no longer exist.

Jordan's ambassador to Israel, Marwan Muasher, caused a mini-rumpus among American Jewish leaders at a recent seminar in Amman when he raised the issue of compensation for abandoned Arab property in Israel, and suggested that the future of Jordanian-Israeli relations was conditional on resolution of this problem. "People jumped at me for opening up 1948 issues," Dr. Muasher told The Report soon after his return to Tel Aviv. "But these issues were never closed. The question of property in Israel is different from the question of sovereignty."

Not surprisingly, Dr. Muasher has more than a passing academic interest in the Absentees' Property Law. In the cramped suite at the seaford Dan Hotel that serves as his temporary embassy, he keeps a special file on the law, with which he is familiar clause by clause.

The perception among many is that all the political problems between Jordan and Israel were over with the signing of the treaty," he said in an interview with The Report. "But they are not. The whole refugee issue has yet to be resolved, and absentee property in 'Israel proper,' that is within the pre-1967 borders, is a sub-problem of that issue."

Dr. Muasher, like everybody else, is hard-pressed to come up with numbers. He stresses that he is only speaking on behalf of Jordanian citizens, not all the Arabs who left Israel in 1948. The best he can do is to report that "many" Jordanians of Palestinian origin, and "some" Jordanians born in the East Bank, had property in Israel before 1948. And this, he adds, is an issue

that Jordanians expect to be addressed.

"I personally have been approached by many Jordanians. I'm constantly asked about this in Jordan, and so is the government. I'm not expert on the subject and that the questions should be directed to the Finance Ministry."

Many Palestinians now living in East Jerusalem or (other parts of) the West Bank seem to view their old property claims as history. Dr. Amin Majja, a retired East Jerusalem pediatrician — who several months ago was named as the head of a rogue East Jerusalem city council set up by Yasser Arafat to challenge Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem — told The Report that his family had land in what is now the booming commercial district of Talpiot. "But we have forgotten all about it," he declared. Asked if he expects eventual compensation for it, he replied: "As I said, we've forgotten all about it."

Others, like Yasser Odeh from Bethlehem, have not quite forgotten while they went about building new lives and homes. Odeh was 9 when his family left their house and land in the village of Malha in 1948. He recalls that when "the troubles" began, people in the village spoke about bringing guns to protect themselves. "But the Jordanian volunteers told us to leave the village, and leave the fighting to them," Odeh relates. "Malha had about 5,000 residents. We all left at the same time. My family came to Bethlehem."

In 1951, Odeh says, a delegation of villagers returned to Malha to see what had happened to it. The village was empty, and valuable furniture inside the houses had gone. The men were scared away by shots fired by Israeli guards. Soon after, the Israeli government moved Jewish refugees from Iraqi Kurdistan into the houses in Malha — many of whom have remained there to this day.

After 1967, when the West Bank fell into Israeli hands and the border with Israel was opened, Odeh returned to Malha to see the house. "The Jewish inhabitants shut the door in my face and told me not to come back," he says. "Since then, I haven't tried again. But I see the house from a distance. It's still there, though rooms have been added on."

Today, Malha, a 10-minute drive from central Jerusalem and a similar distance from Bethlehem, is flourishing. Many homes in the old village have been gentrified. A brand-new neighbourhood has been

built alongside it, and at the bottom of the hill sits the Jerusalem Mall, the biggest shopping mall in the Middle East.

Odeh says that his family owned 50 dunams of land in the area, some where the mall now stands some in the residential neighbourhood. He produces a plastic bag containing folded yellowed pages. There's a deed of sale from 1939 for a patch of land in the hadaba, the "hump" that is now the new residential district; British tax receipts from 1943, 1944 and 1945; and a few pages from Tabu showing land registrations by Odeh's father, Rashid Ismail, signed with inky thumbprints.

The Odeh's patch of land in the hadaba cost 50 Palestinian pounds in 1939. Single penthouse apartments are selling there now for upwards of \$500,000.

Yasser Odeh is today the father of nine sons and three daughters. He has a sprawling four-story home with huge verandas and a stunning view, and a thriving car electronics business that his sons run in the gas station on the main road into Bethlehem. He says he would never take money for his family property in Malha. But he claims he would "give up everything just to live in a cave" where he was born.

Khalil Tufakji, Faisal Hussein's property expert, is typically laconic when asked about an eventual solution. "We can't speak about money," he said. "A thousand Palestinian pounds then is probably worth the equivalent of \$20 now, while the new houses are selling for hundreds of thousands of dollars."

For Ambassador Muasher, the solution is also far from clear-cut. He vehemently rejects an often-made Israeli argument that Jews left behind vast amounts of property when they left the Arab countries to come to Israel, and that the mutual claims will in the end cancel each other out. "There is not a single Jewish house in Jordan," he declares, "so in our case, the quid pro quo doesn't work."

The key, to Dr. Muasher, is the custodian and his fund, built up from all the transactions involving absentees' property since 1948. "Where is this fund?" he asks, "and how large is it? Nobody knows."

He stresses that he is not approaching the issue in a confrontational spirit, and that he has no interest in scare-mongering. "A reasonable solution has, of course, to be negotiated, but we want the principle to be applied. With a peace treaty, Jordanian citizens should no longer be considered absentees. Then we can sit down and talk."

No, Dr. Muasher agreed good-humoredly, the well-heeled residents of 1990s Talbiah probably won't end up being turned onto the streets. And perhaps it isn't realistic to expect claims to be settled on an individual case-by-case basis rather than a government-to-government settlement.

But "if the custodian is a real custodian, and if his fund is really a fund," Dr. Muasher suggests, then there is obviously something to talk about.

New suspects held in Rabin assassination

(Continued from page 1)
have reason to fear for his life for his role in peacemaking with Palestinians, which has been accompanied by attacks on Israelis by Arabs who oppose the peace process.

"Any Jew that brings other Jews to a situation where they are afraid to take buses, afraid to walk on the street, any leader that does that has to be afraid that someone will get upset and kill him," he told the Associated Press.

Mr. Federman distanced himself from the murder of Mr. Rabin, but added he was not unhappy about it.

"To me, Rabin was a murderer. I wouldn't kill him but I'm not a guy to be sad about his death," he said.

At Wednesday's meeting, cabinet heard the findings of a first Shin Bet probe into what went wrong when Mr. Rabin was shot dead at a peace rally in Tel Aviv. The Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security agency, is in charge of protecting Israeli's leaders and also keeps tabs on Jewish extremists.

The report said Mr. Rabin's bodyguards failed to form a human shield around the premier and that unauthorized people were allowed

in the stairway to the terrace from which Mr. Rabin spoke and in the adjacent parking lot.

Confronted with the findings, the head of the Shin Bet protection branch resigned Wednesday and the agent in charge of Mr. Rabin's bodyguards was suspended, government sources said.

Two lower-ranking agents, one in charge of coordination with police and the other in charge of security at Saturday's rally, were to be transferred to other jobs, the sources said.

The cabinet decided to set up an official commission of inquiry, with powers of subpoena. The panel will look into why the Shin Bet did not have better intelligence on Jewish extremists, including potential assassins, and how the gunman got so close to Mr. Rabin, said Cabinet Secretary Shmuel Hollander.

"When we have such a failure, the issue must be investigated thoroughly and must not be covered up," Mr. Peres told the cabinet.

In the new campaign against Jewish extremists, Justice Minister David Libai is putting together a plan to place the task of prosecuting

them into the hands of one government body.

The Shin Bet report suggested that Mr. Rabin's bodyguards were not properly prepared for attacks by Jews on the prime minister and were too focused on acting against Arab assailants.

Israel army radio said Wednesday that just before the rally, the Shin Bet had received fresh warnings that a Palestinian militant might try and kill Mr. Rabin.

The Shin Bet report also found that the agency's database of Jewish extremists and possible attackers was too small and that it had failed to identify many of those who took part in violent anti-government demonstrations.

Fresh graffiti on a wall in Jerusalem read: "Rabin was a victim of peace. Peres is next in line. Peres is continuing on the path of Hitler, the Nazi." The graffiti carried the logo of the Kach group, a clenched fist inside a star of David.

The scribbled warning stood in stark contrast to the loving tribute Israelis have paid to their slain leader in the country's streets.

A mural of Mr. Rabin was

painted on a wall above the square and at least 10,000 white memorial candles were lit at the site of the shooting. Graffiti scrawled on the walls said "Rabin, we miss you" and "Rabin, you left us orphaned."

The Amir family, meanwhile, begged forgiveness from Mr. Rabin's widow and the people of Israel.

"A great calamity has befallen us and the people of Israel with the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, may his memory be blessed, by our son," the family wrote in a letter pinned to their frontyard fence in the town of Herzliya.

"We ask the forgiveness of Mrs. Rabin, her family and all of Israel."

Mrs. Rabin said earlier that she would consider any such apology too little, too late.

The parents, Shlomo Amir and Geula Amir, have put up a tarpaulin in an attempt to block passersby on the street from seeing their two-story house with a red-tile roof. The letter of apology is attached to the tarp.

A group of police and agents of the Shin Bet security agency went into the house Wednesday and later exited without comment.

Assad seeks moves — Rifkind

(Continued from page 1)

whole of Jerusalem as its capital, urges foreign dignitaries to avoid visits to the Orient House that could be seen as backing Palestinian claims to the eastern sector.

A British consulate spokesman in Jerusalem explained Mr. Rifkind's regional tour was rearranged because of the assassination of Mr. Rabin last Saturday in Tel Aviv.

The secretary, along with Prime Minister John Major, attended the state funeral of Mr. Rabin in Jerusalem on Monday and already met Mr. Peres.

Mr. Rifkind is to go ahead Thursday with a visit to the self-ruled Gaza Strip for talks with Mr. Arafat. He is to announce aid projects for the Palestinian National Authority and inaugurate a new British Council centre in Gaza City.

The secretary flies out from Tel Aviv later the same day to travel on to Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon.

In Damascus Mr. Rifkind said there was an opportunity for making "major progress" in the Middle East.

"I think there is a determination in Israel to continue

Peres assures Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

towns of Nablus and Bethlehem.

The British Crown Agents have been given the EU contract for sorting out practical details such as renting offices, Mr. Blackley added.

Two further groups are due to arrive before the vote, 134 on Jan. 2 and 100 on Jan. 15.

Palestinians across the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem will take part in the poll, which will also elect at the same time a president.

Labour rules out early elections

(Continued from page 1)

lawmaker.

Once President Ezer Weizman gives the go-ahead, Mr. Peres will have six weeks to form a new government.

That process is not expected to start until Sunday, when the traditional seven-day mourning period ends for Mr. Rabin, Cabinet Secretary Schmuel Hollander said.

Until Mr. Peres succeeds in formally forming a new government, he is the head of what Israeli law defines as an "interim government."

An interim government can do everything that a regular government does, including proceeding with the peace process, Mr. Hollander said.

But over the long term, an interim government would be widely seen as politically illegitimate — and therefore,

the foreign secretary said Britain believed "there is an opportunity for a very major progress for peace."

Before his meeting with Mr. Assad, Rifkind met with Mr. Sharaa and discussed developments in the peace process and ways to reinforce bilateral relations, officials said.

Mr. Peres will have three weeks to form a coalition government, with up to three weeks of extensions. If for some reason he cannot form a government — which is not expected to happen — Mr. Weizman would assign the task to another parliament member.

Unless Mr. Peres calls early elections, his interim government could serve until elections in November 1996.

Lille bids for 2004 Games

PARIS (AFP) — The French National Olympic Committee Tuesday chose the northeastern city of Lille as its candidate for the 2004 Summer Games.

Lille, which unveiled a 8.1 billion franc (1.7 billion dollar) provisional budget, was chosen 15-13 in a secret ballot of committee members over Lyon in the southeast which had also wanted to stage the money-spinning games.

Mayor Pierre Mauroy, a former French prime minister, said that France should now reunite behind his city to ensure that they beat tough

foreign competition to stage the games.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) deadline for bids is January 10 and the IOC will fix a short-list of four or five sites by April 1, 1997. A host city will be announced on September 7, 1997.

The next two Olympics will be held in Atlanta, Georgia next year and in Sydney, Australia in the year 2000.

Other venues interested in staging the 2004 games are: Cape Town, South Africa; Istanbul, Turkey; St. Petersburg, Russia; Seville, Spain;

Rome; Boston, Massachusetts; Osaka, Japan; Buenos Aires; Rio De Janeiro, Brazil; San Juan, Puerto Rico and Stockholm.

The Chinese Olympic Committee said last month they may propose the southern city of Guangzhou and not Beijing, which was beaten to the 2000 Games in Sydney.

France has previously staged two Summer Olympics — Paris in 1900 and 1924 — and three Winter Olympics — Chamonix in 1924, Grenoble in 1968 and Albertville in 1992.

Ivanisevic upset in Kremlin Cup

MOSCOW (AP) — Goran Ivanisevic suffered a stunning straight-sets loss to unseeded Shuzo Matsuoka in the opening round of the Kremlin Cup tennis tournament Tuesday, ending his hopes of making the ATP Championships.

"Today I was just a piece of garbage," said the second-seeded Croat, whose recent slump has dropped him to No. 9 in the world rankings.

Ivanisevic had been battling Thomas Enqvist for the eighth ranking and final qualifying spot in the year-end ATP tour world championships, beginning Nov. 14 in Frankfurt, Germany. He

came to Moscow needing a win and an early exit by the Swede at this week's tournament in Stockholm.

But this booming serve failed him against Matsuoka of Japan, and numerous unforced errors contributed to a 7-6 (7-5) 6-4 upset.

Ivanisevic said he liked the fast surface in Moscow's indoor Olympic stadium but lost his confidence long ago, blaming that partly on a change in coaches.

The 28-year-old Matsuoka, Japan's top player, came to Moscow ranked just 62nd in the world. He will face Carl Uwe-Steeb of Germany in the second round.

Two other seeds joined Ivanisevic on the list of first-round upsets. Karol Kucera of Slovakia defeated No. 5 Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands, 4-6, 7-5, and Russia's Andrei Olhovskiy downed No. 7 Renszo Furlan of Italy, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3.

Third-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland eliminated the tournament's only remaining American, Jeff Tarango, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-2).

Defending champion and No. 6 seed Alexander Volkov of Russia, a notorious slow starter in tournaments, rallied to beat Lionel Roux of France 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-0.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ferguson thanks fans for jail

GLASGOW (AFP) — Jailed Scotland and Everton footballer Duncan Ferguson has thanked Everton fans for their support during what he describes as "the most difficult period of my life." Speaking to the Liverpool Echo from his prison cell, Ferguson said: "I have been overwhelmed by the fantastic support I have received from Everton fans everywhere. 'It has helped keep my spirits up and I feel it is important to tell people just how much those messages have helped lift my spirits,' he added. The striker also revealed he has been keeping in touch with Everton's results and said: "I have a radio and wait anxiously to hear our results. I did not realise just how much I would miss football."

U.N. sets record

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations broke its own record Tuesday, with an unprecedented 161 countries backing a resolution on building peace through sport. The 185-member General Assembly approved the resolution without a vote. It calls for a truce during the Olympics and cooperation between the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee in promoting peace and equality. On Monday, U.S. gold medal gymnast Bart Conner said that breaking the record in sponsorship would be "truly an Olympic feat of the first order." Conner won two gold medals in the 1994 Olympics. The previous U.N. record was set in 1990, when 158 nations backed a resolution admitting the African state of Namibia into the United Nations.

Camacho defeats Danny Chavez

CHESTER, West Virginia (AP) — Hector Camacho, capitalising on his jab and foot speed, won his 13th straight bout Tuesday night with a unanimous decision over Danny Chavez in a 10-round welterweight fight. Camacho, 33, was awarded every round but one on the three judges' scorecards at mountaineer racetrack and gaming resort. He won by scores of 100-90 and 99-91. Camacho used his jab in the first three rounds to keep Chavez away, before getting more aggressive with body shots. He kept Chavez off balance throughout, adeptly avoiding combinations. Camacho of Orlando, Florida, last lost in January 1994 to International Boxing Federation welterweight champion Felix Trinidad. Camacho is now 57-3 with 27 knockouts and holds the welterweight title of the fringe International Boxing Council. Chavez, 29, of Petaluma, California, drops to 25-6-1 with 11 knockouts.

Graf struggles on in silence

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — World number one Steffi Graf refused to answer questions on her private life here on Tuesday after struggling to a second round 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 win over American Amy Frazier at the Philadelphia WTA tournament. "I've got a week and a half of tennis left this year, so can we just talk about tennis," said the 26-year-old. A recent article in German magazine Der Spiegel claimed Graf was often beaten by her father Peter, who is currently in prison facing tax evasion charges after the players' finances were investigated. Graf has been beaten just once in 40 games this season.

Leeds confident of landing Brolin

LONDON (R) — English Premier League side Leeds will open talks on Thursday with Italian club Parma in a bid to agree a fee for Sweden striker Tomas Brolin. Heppesed, a medical at Leeds' headquarters on Tuesday before returning to Sweden to consider the move. Brolin, who has not played for the joint serie a leaders this season after breaking his ankle, has already rejected offers from three rival Italian clubs. Leeds believe Brolin and Ghanian Tony Yeboah could form an exciting international strikeforce. Brolin first shot to prominence in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy and was then instrumental in Sweden's progress to the semifinals of the 1992 European Championship finals.

Christofle - Only one quality - the best

CHIEF EXECUTIVE officer of Christofle Company, Maurizio Borletti, Tuesday inaugurated a new wing at Abu Shaqra Trading Company's Bayader Wadi Seer branch, with display of exquisite tableware.

In 1995, on the eve of the twenty-first century, there are only a few companies of international renown in France which have succeeded in handing down a corporate culture, a tradition, a skill, and heritage through six generations of the same family: Christofle is one such company. The founder Charles Christofle was born in 1805 and Maurizio Borletti, the current chief executive officer of Société Christofle, was born in 1967.

Over that span of time unfolded the saga of Christofle: the adventure of six generations of dedicated, inventive craftsmen who, for almost two hundred years, have understood, and adapted their design to the changes in the lifestyle of their times. This is the story which is told here after.

Charles Christofle became the official supplier to King Louis-Philippe and the Royal family, making "silver plate," hitherto a craftsman's trade, into a new industry in France. As yet, he had no idea that his name would become a generic term and that fu-



Rami Abu Shaqra

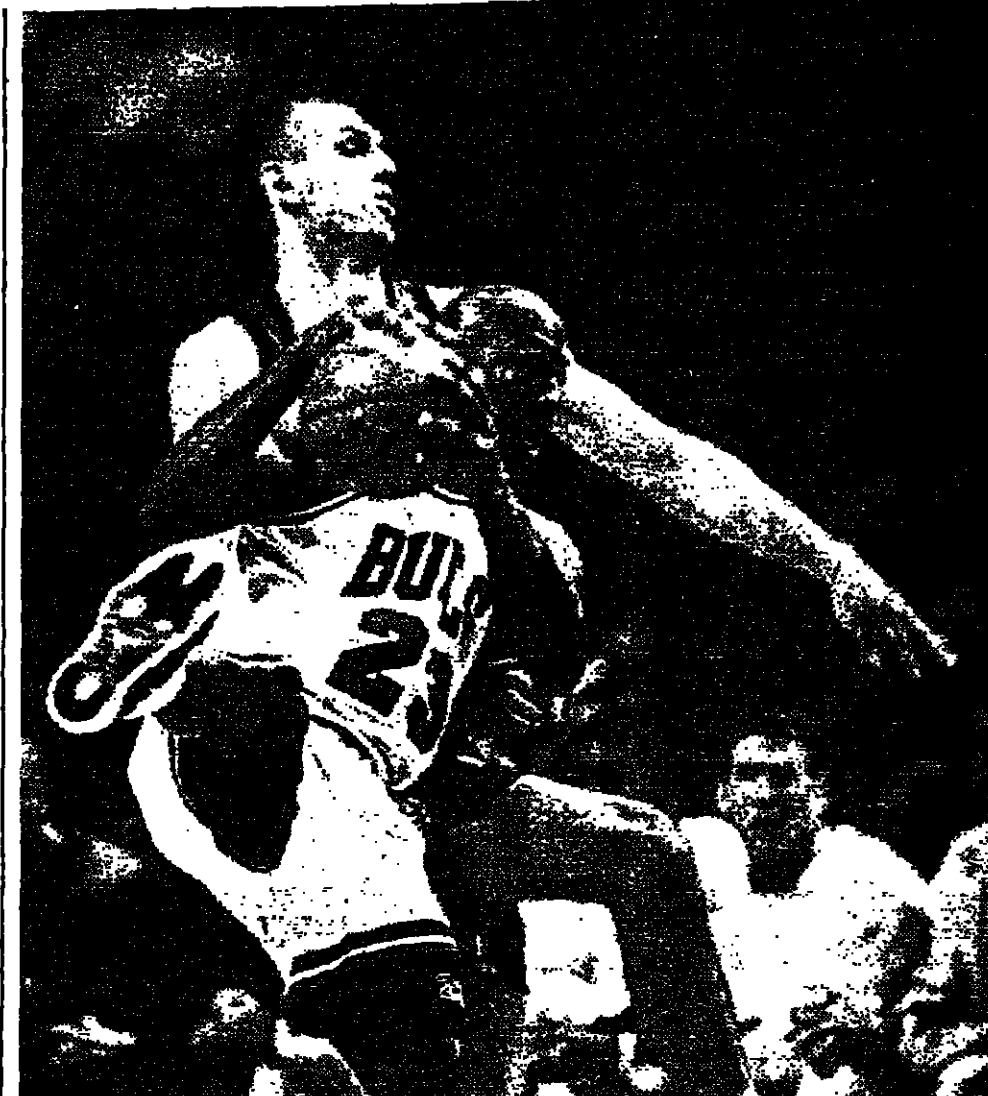
ture generations would use the term "Christofle" to simply designate silver-plate.

The turn of the century was marked by the high-profile presence of Christofle at all the major universal exhibitions — Paris, London, Vienna, Chicago.

In 1993, the son of Ferdinando Borletti, Maurizio, at the age of 26, succeeds in the family business — the very age at which Charles Christofle took over Christofle in the 19th century.

Since 1994, Maurizio Borletti has redefined the boundaries of the Christofle brand, incorporating all forms of tableware in many different domains: porcelain, stainless steel, silver, silver gilt, crystal, rare wood, Chinese lacquer, etc.

Abu Shaqra Trading Company, Christofle agents in Jordan for, the



Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan (front) is knocked off balance as he steals a pass intended for Toronto Raptors' Zan Tabak (rear) in the first quarter of their NBA game in Chicago, November 7. Chicago won 117 to 108 (Reuters photo)

Suns rally to defeat Knicks

NEW YORK (AP) — Wayne Tisdale scored 10 of Phoenix's first 13 points of the fourth quarter and finished with 18 as the Suns rallied to defeat the New York Knicks 102-94 Tuesday night.

With the victory, the Suns avoided starting the season 0-3 for the first time since 1985-86, when they got off to an 0-9 beginning.

In coach Don Nelson's Garden debut, the Knicks led by as many as 13 points in the third quarter, but got off to a bad shooting start in the final period against a big Phoenix lineup of Tisdale, Charles Barkley and A.C. Green in the frontcourt.

Tisdale's fifth field goal of the period put the Suns ahead 83-82 with 7:28 to play. After Charles Smith tied it with a free throw, Barkley, who finished with 27 points, made a series of strong plays to secure the Suns' victory.

Patrick Ewing led the Knicks with 25 points, but missed five of six shots in the final quarter.

Nets 104, Trail Blazers 84: In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Armon Gilliam scored 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds and New Jersey used an early burst to defeat Portland.

With reserves Vern Fleming and Jayson Williams sparking the offense, the Nets went on a 22-6 burst to turn a four-point deficit into a 35-23 lead. New Jersey also held the Trail Blazers scoreless for a stretch of 5:11 in the opening period during the decisive run.

Cliff Robinson led Portland with 24 points, while James Robinson added 13. Kings, 109, 76ers 106: In Philadelphia Mitch Richmond scored 23 points and Tyrone Corbin hit two crucial free throws as Sacramento defeated Philadelphia to remain unbeaten.

Walt Williams added 22 points for Sacramento (3-0), while rookie Jerry Stackhouse had a season-high 34 points for Philadelphia.

The Kings took a 101-92 lead on two free throws by Richmond with 3:13 to play, but Philadelphia pulled to 103-100 with 1:34 to go. Two foul shots by Williams made it 105-100, and after the 76ers pulled to 105-104, Sarunas Marciulionis and Corbin each sank two free throws around Shawn Bradley's layup.

Hornets 108, Pistons 96: In Charlotte, North Carolina, Dell Curry scored 18 of his 27 points in the final 15 minutes as Charlotte posted its 11th consecutive win over Detroit.

Detroit, under new coach Doug Collins, is off to an 0-3 start for the first time since 1980. The Pistons led 60-53 early in the third quarter before Charlotte went on a 19-5 run and outscored Detroit 28-17 in the period.

Larry Johnson had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Khalid Reeves 16 points and eight assists for Charlotte. Otis Thorpe led Detroit with 24 points and Terry Mills added 20.

Pacers 104, Cavaliers 101: In Cleveland, Reggie Miller scored 25 points and Antonio Davis sank two clinching free throws with 19.6 seconds left in Indiana's victory over Cleveland.

Cleveland played without starting forward Tyrone Hill, who was in a car accident on the way to the game and was taken to a hospital for evaluation. The Cavs had no immediate word on his condition.

Also missing from the Cleveland lineup was Chris Mills, suspended for one game for fighting with Miami's Predrag Danilovic. The Pacers improved to 3-0

for the first time since 1989 and for only the second time in their NBA history. The Cavaliers, winless in three games this season, lost their fourth consecutive home opener.

Ricky Pierce scored 22 points off the bench for Indiana.

Timberwolves 93, Lakers 92: In Minneapolis, Sean Rooks made one of two free throws with 15.5 seconds left as Minnesota's first win of the season came in its home opener.

Rookie Kevin Garnett, just five months out of high school, also helped spark the Wolves from an 11-point third-quarter deficit. He had eight points, five rebounds and three steals in 26 minutes, his longest outing, and his defense ignited a 7-0 run that gave Minnesota 74-68 lead heading into the final quarter.

Cedric Ceballos led Los Angeles with 27 points.

Tuesday's attendance of 14,756 was the smallest for a Wolves' home opener. The loss was the seventh-straight regular-season road loss for the Lakers.

Bulls 117, Raptors 108: In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored eight points in a late 15-0 run and Chicago went 3-0 for the first time since the 1987-88 season by beating Toronto.

Jordan, finishing with 38 points, hit three jumpers and a pair of free throws in the deciding sport that gave Chicago a 113-100 lead with three minutes left.

Scottie Pippen added 26 points and Dennis Rodman had 11 points and 13 rebounds for the Chicago.

Willie Anderson led the expansion Raptors with 23 points and Damon Stoudamire added 22 to go with 10 assists and six rebounds.

Mavericks 99, Grizzlies 88: In Dallas, Jason Kidd's 15 points and a great effort by the Dallas bench made the Mavericks 3-0 for the first time in Franchise history, while sending Vancouver to its first Franchise loss.

The Grizzlies trailed by six points after one quarter, 13 at halftime and 19 after three quarters. The deficit hit 20 early in the fourth quarter.

Jamal Mashburn led Dallas with 16 points, while Vancouver was led by Benoit Benjamin with 16 points and reserve Darrick Martin with 15 points and seven assists.

Rockets 106, Bucks 89: In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 25 points and Clyde Drexler added 26 points and 12 rebounds as Houston remained unbeaten.



THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) AND THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (UNFPA)

seek qualified Jordanian professionals for two vacant posts as National Programme Officers in their Amman office.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a multisectoral funding agency active in a broad spectrum of fields relevant to Jordan's socio-economic development as defined by the Jordanian Government's priorities. Among UNDP's Current priority areas are (a) human development with particular emphasis on poverty reduction and creation of employment, (b) environmental protection and natural resource management, (c) technical support to improve Jordan's international competitiveness.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the U.N. system's primary funding agency in the field of population and development strategies (e.g. demography; population statistics); reproductive health, including family welfare/family planning, and advocacy.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The National Programme Officers in UNDP and UNFPA will, within the respective mandate of these two institutions, have the following general duties and responsibilities:

- to analyze Jordan's national policies and priorities based on available socio-economic data and prepare relevant back-ground papers and reports;
- to identify Jordan's technical assistance needs and develop programme/project proposals for inclusion in UNDP's/UNFPA's Country Programmes for Jordan;
- to appraise programme/project proposals in close dialogue with the responsible government agencies and the Jordanian beneficiaries in the population at large;
- to monitor on-going projects through field visits and regular reporting, and to facilitate project implementation through supportive interventions and close follow-up; and through supportive interventions and close follow-up; and
- prepare programme management plans and carry out financial management of projects, including budgeting and expenditure forecasts.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- a post-graduate university degree, preferably in one of the social sciences (e.g. economics, public administration, sociology) or in a technical discipline relevant to socio-economic development;
- at least three and at most twelve years of relevant professional experience in government service, in academic institutions, in non-governmental organizations and/or in community-based development/social work;
- full oral proficiency in Arabic and English and excellent drafting / conceptualization skills in both languages;
- highly developed inter-cultural and inter-personal skills that enable the applicant to (a) feel fully at ease among and work closely with people of different races, cultures, political or religious orientations; (b) participate effectively in team work; and (c) be highly sensitive to and supportive of gender concerns;
- other qualifications that will be considered important extra assets: (a) computer literacy, particularly knowledge of and routine in the use of word processing; (b) strong public presentation and communication skills, and (c) knowledge of a third United Nations language.

Candidates are requested to submit their application (incl. a complete curriculum vitae) no later than 23 November 1995 in a sealed envelope clearly marked "NPO Application" to

UNDP or UNFPA, P.O. Box 35286, Amman 11180

or deliver it by hand to the receptionist in the UNDP/UNFPA office, Hirbawi Building, Obadah Ibn Al-Samit Street, Shmeisani, Amman. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

TODAY AT

PHILADELPHIA

Delan Walsh
& Lora Leeni...in
CONGO

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA

Mahmoud Yassin, Hussein Fahmi
& Rania Yassin...in
Hazelnut's Shell
(Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
Sylvester Stallone...in
ASSASSINS
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30
CONCORD "2"
Adel Imam & Yusra
Birds of the Darkness
Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15

AMMOUN THEATRE

MUSA HIAJAZIN
"Sumaa"
in
Hi Citizen
daily at 8:30 p.m.
Written & directed by
Mohammad Shawaqfeh

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre

Presents
(Ahlan Tatbee')
Welcome
Normalisation
Show starts at 8:30 p.m.
For reservation call 625155

Karlsruhe knock Dortmund out of German Cup

BONN (R) — German League leaders Borussia Dortmund crashed out of the quarter-finals of the German Cup after a 3-1 defeat at home by Karlsruhe on Tuesday.

Well-taken goals from South African Sean Dundee and libero Jens Nowotny in the 26th and 59th minutes and a 74th-minute penalty from German international Thomas Haessler clinched an upset victory for Karlsruhe.

Reigning champions Dortmund, who scored a consolation goal from national team libero Matthias Sammer in the 65th minute, played the last quarter of the match with 10 men after German international Steffen Freund was sent off.

Kaiserslautern needed an extra time goal to sink regional league side Homburg 4-3 while Fortuna Dueseldorf clinched their place in the last four with a 1-0 defeat of second division Nurem-

berg. Bayer Leverkusen earned their place in the last four last week when they beat part-timers Altmir Stendal after a penalty shoot-out.

Dortmund laid on most of the early pressure on a cold and damp night but went behind when Haessler floated what looked like a harmless freekick into the penalty area. Dortmund goalkeeper Stefan Klos was unable to stop Dundee getting his head to the ball to give the visitors a 1-0 halftime lead.

Dortmund looked determined to bounce back after the interval. But it was not long before Nowotny made a clever run to beat their offside trap and slot the ball inside the left-hand post.

Sammer's individual effort narrowed the Karlsruhe lead to 2-1. Two minutes after Freund had left the field in the 72nd minute for his second poor tackle of the

game, Haessler made sure of victory.

"Of course I'm disappointed because we had enough chances to make the semifinals," Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said. "But we didn't deserve to win because we made too many mistakes in attack."

Kaiserslautern also finished their tie with 10 men after substitute Bernd Hollerbach was sent off in extra time for a foul. But Horst Siegl got the winner three minutes before the end after the two teams had been level at 3-3 after 90 minutes.

A 56th-minute goal from former Dortmund and German international veteran Frank Mill put Fortuna Dueseldorf into the semifinals for the 12th time.

The 37-year-old Mill's shot from a narrow angle brought a rare triumph to the club who have been struggling in the relegation zone in the Bundesliga this season.

Season's final rally tour to be held Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Autosports fans only have two more events before the 1995 season concludes with the National Rally scheduled for Dec. 8.

This weekend, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) has organized the year's final rally tour sponsored by Akram Ramadan.

The two-day rally tour will start from RACJ headquarters Friday at 9:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. The official results will be announced Saturday.

The country's top drivers are expected to participate as the event counts towards the 1995 Jordan Drivers' Open Championship.

Ahmad Al Daoud leads the standings with 153 points followed by last year's winner Bashar Bustami with 125 and Marouf Abu Samra with 114.

The rally tour is approximately 300 kilometres long with several constant and average speed sections. The entire route will be on asphalt public roads.

The interval between competing cars will be 1 minute at each time control. The event is a rally of the second category where maximum speed is not a deciding factor determining the results. Therefore, there is no restriction on the type of vehicle entered provided that it does not exceed 2,000 kilograms.



Argentinian soccer star Diego Maradona waves to students before delivering his lecture at the Oxford Union (AFP photo)

Maradona rebuilds tarnished image

OXFORD (AP) — Oxford University has seldom had a guest speaker like Diego Armando Maradona.

"We've had Reagan and Gorbachev here, and he out-did them both," said Rabbi Shmuel Boteach, director of the Jewish student group L'Chaim Society.

"The students showed him a kind of adulation I haven't seen before," the Rabbi added. "Gorbachev got the restrained academic adulation, but not the gung-ho thing we saw with Maradona. They were clearly in love with him."

The student group — which regularly invites politicians and artists to speak and debate in the storied Oxford Union — offered Maradona the forum to address about 1,000 students and about 150 journalists.

"We had about 78 news organizations represented, far above what we've had here in recent memory," Rabbi Boteach said.

The 35-year-old midfielder, disgraced twice for drug-related suspensions from soccer, lapped up the chance. Notoriously unreliable, he arrived 50 minutes late — tied up in traffic to Oxford after a Concorde flight to London.

"A football player in my country is regarded as a know-nothing," Maradona told reporters. "So it was important for me to be here and show we're not as ignorant as they say we are."

Maradona, who began his second career comeback last month with the Argentine club Boca Juniors, used the historic debating chamber to promote his latest idea — a soccer players' union.

He lashed out at FIFA — the governing body of world soccer — and suggested they were behind his two 15-month suspensions.

But that's not what the students came for. "I was hoping there would be something more interesting than his speech," said 18-year-old student Clare Dixon.

There was.

A student tossed Maradona a golf ball and he foot-juggled it. Then he balanced a soccer ball on his forehead. The applause thundered both times.

"Just being in the same room with him was unbelievable, he's the best player in the last 20 years," said Tom Ewing, another 18-year-old student.

Seated beside him at the podium were his two young daughters, dressed in party dresses, and his wife, Claudia, who sat in the audience and eventually joined him, too.

"I've seen leaders, some very famous people have come through here and I've never seen them bring their children," Rabbi Boteach said. "Maybe it's because families are closer in Latin America. But that impressed me."

"He struck me as a great father and husband, at least from what I saw of him," he added. "There was a very earthy quality to him."

"It was pointed out to me that the mistakes he's made, he's never meant to hurt anybody, the only person's he's hurt is himself."

Maradona, a street kid who grew up in a Buenos Aires slum, seemed sincerely moved by the event.

"It's been very emotional... it's not often a soccer player can face so many people so rich in culture and education," he said, donning a cap and gown and holding an honorary diploma presented to him by Oxford's lord mayor.

"Master inspirer of Oxford dreamers," the diploma read.

Courier, Martin advance to 2nd round in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Jim Courier led a parade of Americans into the second round of the \$825,000 Stockholm Open tennis tournament Tuesday.

Returning to the Royal tennis hall, where he made his big breakthrough seven years ago, Courier pummeled Michael Tebbut of Australia 6-0, 6-2 in 55 minutes.

"This is the best fall I've had during my career," said the seventh-ranked American, who has won four titles this year. A two-time French Open champion, Courier was ranked No. 1 in the world in 1992.

He expressed delight with his game both Tuesday and generally in the last few months. Last week, Courier qualified for the ATP Tour World Championship in Frankfurt, Germany.

"I am more hungry to play, more eager than before, and I think that is reflected in my game," he said.

He also welcomed the move of the Stockholm Open tournament from the globe arena, where the tournament has been played for the last six years, back to the old site, noting: "It is much nicer here. The globe arena was too sterile. The old place is much more alive."

Courier had just turned pro when, at the age of 18, he reached the semifinal of the 1988 Stockholm Open, then one of the world's biggest indoor tournaments.

On Tuesday, fellow American Todd Martin had a tougher ride into the second round, losing the first set to Martin Damm of the Czech Republic in a tiebreaker after winning the first three games.

However, the sixth-seeded American surged back to win 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-3.

Richey Reneberg defeated Mark Woodforde 6-2, 7-5, while the other half of the top Australian doubles team, Todd Woodbridge, defeated Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

The Swede fought off four match points before falling. In the only upset of the day, Oliver Delaitre of France ousted seventh-seeded Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 6-2, 7-6 (7-3).

In a late singles match, third-seeded Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands downed Britain's Greg Rusedski 7-6 (7-3), 5-7, 7-5.

Hunt claims Khan not unbeatable

NICOSIA (AFP) — Australian manager Geoff Hunt, hoping for an Australian upset win over world champion Jansher Khan at the 1995 men's World Open squash championships, said Wednesday: "He's only human."

Hunt, a four-time world champion and eight-time British Open winner, said: "If Brett Martin and Rodney Eyles play each other in the semi-final, one of them would be guaranteed a crack at Jansher Khan, assuming he gets through."

"Jansher may be a great player, but he has to lose sometime. It would be great if an Australian could do it."

Though Hunt conceded Khan was a strong favourite — the 26-year-old six-time world champion has not lost since the Welsh Classic in early 1994 — he was unconvinced Khan was invincible.

Hunt added everybody thought Jansher Khan was unbeatable till he lost to Ross Norman at the 1986 world championships. "Perhaps this is Jansher's year to lose," Hunt continued.

Tuesday was certainly a fruitful day for Australia, the number one seeds in next week's World Team Cup in Cairo.

Australia's second seed Rodney Eyles, fourth seed Brett Martin and world number 21 Craig Rowland all won, adding to eighth seed Anthony Hill's win on Monday.

Qualifier Dan Jenson is Australia's only casualty so far, but he did give England's fifth seed Simon Parke a tough time before bowing out on Monday.

Meanwhile it was a miserable day for English seeds as four went out — 11th seed Stephen Meads, sixth seed Chris Walker, 16th seed Philip Whitlock and 10th seed Mark Cairns.

Rowland, the fourth-ranked Australian in their World Cup team next week in Cairo, raced to a 2-0 lead against lefthander Walker and was two points from victory in the third as he led 13-12.

But Rowland, from Rockhampton — the same town as tennis legend Rod Laver — lost three consecutive points to concede the game.

However, Rowland, who trains under the wing of Geoff Hunt, made amends in the fourth as he cruised to an 11-5 lead before winning it 15-7 to set up a second round clash with South Africa's Craig Van Der Wath.

Van Der Wath, just 61st in the world, beat England's 11th seed Stephen Meads 15-11, 15-6, 15-11.

England's Mark Chaloner beat 16th seed Philip Whitlock, last season's England captain, 15-10, 15-10, 15-12.

From 6-9 down in the first game, Chaloner won eight

consecutive points to win the first game 15-10 and never looked back as he dominated throughout from the centre of the court.

Chaloner now meets Australia's fourth seed Brett Martin, who downed the first ever Argentinian in the world's top 20, Federico Usandizaga, 15-11, 12-15, 15-13, 15-12.

Martin, 32, who can still be brilliant on his day, did not mince words after his victory. "I was terrible," he said.

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TWO WAYS TO FINESSE

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 8 6
♥ A J 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ Q 4

WEST
♠ 7 4
♥ 7 5 2
♦ J 10 8 7 3
♣ 6 2

EAST
♠ 5 2
♥ 9 8 4
♦ K 9
♣ A K J 10 7 5

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 8 3
♥ K Q 10
♦ 6 4 2
♣ 8 3

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1NT 2♣ 3♠ 4♠
Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠.

Even something as straightforward as the simple finesse can offer an alternative, depending on whether you can afford to lose a quick trick or not. Here's what we mean.

The bidding was interesting. Although holding an absolute maximum in terms of point count for a no-trump opening, North properly discounted the queen of clubs and simply raised South's spades to

game rather than cue-bid.

West led a club, East won the first trick with the jack, cashed the king and continued with the ace.

Declarer ruffed high, drew trumps and then took the diamond finesse. Not surprisingly in view of the bidding, East won and exited with a red suit, and declarer eventually had to concede another diamond for down one.

Since declarer could afford to lose one diamond trick but not two, there was a better way to tackle the hand. After ruffing the third club, declarer should draw trumps in two rounds, then cash the ace of diamonds. After clearing hearts, ending in hand, declarer leads a diamond toward the queen.

If the finesse had been destined to succeed, West could win the king, but that would be the only diamond trick the defense could score. Where this play gains is when the cards lie as in the diagram. After West follows with a low diamond, declarer inserts the queen. That loses to the king, but the position is different. East wins, but has no safe exit. No matter what suit East returns, declarer will be able to ruff in one hand while discarding a diamond from the other, thereby eliminating a second loser in the suit.

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U.S. and Russia reach accord on Bosnia force

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The United States and Russia agreed Wednesday to allow Russian troops to participate in international peacekeeping in post-war Bosnia without being under direct North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) command.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev announced the agreement after meeting at NATO headquarters with U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry.

Mr. Grachev said NATO's supreme commander in Europe, General George Joulwan, an American, "will have a Russian deputy who will give orders to the Russian forces." Mr. Grachev and Mr. William Perry said political control of NATO operation had yet to be worked out.

Russia would contribute 1,000-1,500 troops to the 60,000-strong peacekeeping force, Mr. Grachev said.

The U.S.-Russia accord has now to be approved by the other NATO allies, but this is not expected to raise problems.

In Washington, visiting Montenegrin Prime Minister Mil Djukanovic predicted that the Balkan peace talks near Dayton, Ohio, could end with an agreement on Bosnia by the end of the week.

Mr. Djukanovic told reporters that his prediction was based on a telephone conversation with Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic, who is a member of the joint Serbian delegation in Dayton.

He told me that negotiations are being done in a constructive manner and that he expects that they should be ended by the end of this week," Mr. Djukanovic said.

through an interpreter. He added, however, that the peace talks that began Nov. 1 were about to address territorial issues, such as setting the borders between the Bosnian Serbs and a federation of Bosnian Muslims and Croats, adding: "That is where the complications might occur."

Mr. Djukanovic said territorial issues in the Bosnia talks were more important than U.S. and Bosnian demands that Bosnian Serb leaders Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic be removed from power on the grounds that they have been charged with the international war crimes tribunal in the Hague.

Asked what the prospects of peace in Bosnia were after a multinational peacekeeping force including U.S. troops were withdrawn one year into a peace agreement, Mr. Djukanovic said none of the warring parties was keen on having any foreign troops in the territory.

"They would be the happiest if they could be left alone, and to kill each other until they're all dead," he added.

The U.S. report David Rohde, detained by the Bosnian Serbs for over a week has been "released from criminal charges," Bosnian Serb radio said Wednesday.

(Bosnian Serb leader) Radovan Karadzic decided today (Wednesday) to release American journalist David Rohde from the criminal charges," according to Pale radio, monitored in Sarajevo.

It was not initially clear if this meant Mr. Rohde would be freed from detention.

Mr. Rohde had been held prisoner in Bijeljina, a town

in Serb-held northeast Bosnia since his arrest on Oct. 28. He was serving a 15-day sentence on charges of "falsifying" documents and "illegally" entering "Republika Srpska, the Serbs' rebel state in Bosnia.

The U.N. rapporteur on human rights in the former Yugoslavia, Elisabeth Rehn said continuing human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia threaten to compromise any peace agreement.

"Without genuine improvement in the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, any peace agreement will not have a solid foundation," Ms. Rehn said in her first mission report.

The former Finnish defence minister added that "effective protection of human rights in the whole region under international supervision" should be ensured.

Ms. Rehn, who succeeded Poland's Tadeusz Mazowiecki in September, is to report back to the U.N. General Assembly on her tour of Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Yugoslavia between Oct. 9 and 13.

Mr. Mazowiecki resigned in protest after the U.N. failed to make good on a pledge to protect the eastern enclave of Srebrenica. An estimated 8,000 Muslim men are still missing, believed massacred, after the U.N.-designated safe area fell on July 11.

Ms. Rehn called for the international community to set up a surveillance mechanism and said the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights must be given the support and necessary finances.

Prince Hassan urges public and private sectors to build complementary relations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday praised all institutions and individuals who contributed to the success of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit held in Amman Oct. 29-31.

At a meeting with the heads and members of the sectoral as well as government committees which took part in preparations for the summit, Prince Hassan paid tribute to the private sector volunteers who were a key factor to the success of the summit.

The Prince said preparations of the summit were in fact preparations to have Jordan enter a new era in its history.

The Prince said the world's reaction to and evaluation of the summit stressed its success from all aspects, organisational, political or economic. He added that the summit was a good chance to prove Jordan's potentials to the world through serious



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday meets with representatives of official and private sector organisations who contributed to the success of the Middle East and North Africa economic summit held here last month (Photo by Boghos)

efforts and a clear vision.

Prince Hassan said there should be a complementary relationship between the public and private sectors in the development process, noting that the private

sector in particular managed to present Jordan at the conference as a society capable of managing its potentials.

Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb, who headed the summit's preparatory committee, delivered an address in which he highlighted the success of the summit as a remarkable Jordanian achievement.

Israelis mourn Rabin at his grave

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Schoolchildren, soldiers, French marathon runners, Russian immigrants and American tourists mourned at the wreath-laden grave of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Wednesday, four days after a Jewish extremist gunned him down.

They came from all over Israel and beyond to sing, pray or just weep at the grave of the soldier-turned-statesman who led his country from war to peace with the Palestinians.

A mountain of wreaths, many bearing the simple message "Shalom chaver" (farewell friend) with which U.S. President Bill Clinton paid tribute to Mr. Rabin, covered the simply earthed grave at the Mount Herzl national cemetery.

Children lit memorial candles that flickered and faltered in the wind. A Yeminite Jew chanted Psalms.

Others intoned Kaddish, the prayer for the dead.

Army officers, rifles slung from their shoulders, fought back tears as teenage girls hugged each other and sobbed.

The other Israel, in which hardened enemies of Mr. Rabin's peace policy defaced his death notices, vandalised memorials and scrawled slogans praising his murder, seemed more than a few streets away.

"Rabin was strong enough to lead us, he was brave enough to make peace, and I was naive enough to think he didn't need us on the street to support him," said history teacher Carmela Ferber.

She said she felt guilty she did not attend the Tel Aviv peace rally at which Mr. Rabin was shot by an extreme-right Jewish student opposed to his peace policies on Saturday night.

Ms. Ferber's students from

Tikhon Ramle-Lod high school, carrying an Israeli flag with black streamers, sang the Israeli anthem Hatikva to the mournful accompaniment of a lone violin.

Another group of schoolchildren sang the song of peace which Mr. Rabin had sung in public for the first time a few minutes before he was assassinated.

As they sang, 20 runners from France led by a former Olympic sprinter and sports minister panted to the graveside in white T-shirts and running shorts, carrying a wreath inscribed in French "Paix et Tolérance."

They had been due to take part in a U.N.-sponsored marathon for peace and tolerance on Wednesday. It was cancelled after Mr. Rabin was shot. Instead, they ran five kilometres from a sports stadium to the hilltop graveyard.

"We came here simply because Mr. Rabin was a peace-maker. Sadly, he was stopped on his path. It is our duty to demonstrate here our support for peace, and for his philosophy," said former French Sports Minister Roger Bambuc, a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation.

Marathon runner Dominique Chauveller, wearing a cardboard black skullcap, said there were Muslims, Christians and Jews in the group. "We want to show sport is a way of bringing people together for peace," he said.

At the graveside, the sound of Hebrew prayer mingled with the voices of recent immigrants speaking Russian, many of whom flocked to the Jewish state during Mr. Rabin's three years as premier.

BA asked to compensate French Kuwait hostages

PARIS (AFP) — A French court Wednesday ordered British Airways to pay more than 25 million francs (\$5 million) compensation to French passengers taken hostage by Iraq while on a B.A. flight into Kuwait City at the start of the Gulf war.

The court, ruling on a civil action brought by a group of 65 passengers, said the airline had "total responsibility" for the seizure of the passengers and their subsequent use as "human shields" by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

It ordered the airline to pay 400,000 francs (about \$80,000) to hostages held for one month, 600,000 francs to those held for three months, and 800,000 francs to family members.

The 65 French people were among 364 passengers on board the plane, flying from London to Kuala Lumpur. British passengers have already taken similar legal action in Britain.

The hostages had alleged in particular that British Airways knew the invasion of Kuwait had begun on Aug. 2, 1990, and that the flight was used to land a group of SAS commandos in Kuwait — an allegation denied by British authorities.

Judge Pierre Renard-Payen said that these allegations "cannot be legally established." But he found against B.A. because, although nothing could have been done about the hostage-taking once it was under way, the whole event was "highly predictable."

"The financial and territorial demands by Iraq on Kuwait were well known... the movements of troops towards the border with Kuwait had become clear... the situation was particularly alarming on Aug. 1, 1990," he added.

"The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq appeared highly predictable," he said, ruling that B.A. had "seriously failed in its obligations and must be condemned to compensate... the whole of the detrimental consequences."

Britain to extradite Paris suspect

LONDON (AFP) — Hours after the departure of a French anti-terrorist magistrate, British authorities Wednesday moved to extradite to France an Algerian arrested here last weekend in connection with a wave of French bomb attacks.

The Home Office identified him as Rachid Ramda, 26, an alias for Abdul Kader Benouis, also known as Abu Fares.

Scotland Yard said Ramda, unemployed and with no fixed address, was in custody at London's Paddington Green police station and would appear before a court Thursday morning for an extradition hearing.

He was one of five persons arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) in raids in Islamic fundamentalist circles here on the weekend.

Ramda was "released from PTA custody and rearrested and charged as follows," said the spokesman.

"Between 25 July and 7 November (of 1995) he un-

lawfully conspired with others to cause by an explosive substance an explosion of a nature likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property in France."

France on Tuesday had issued an international arrest warrant for Abdul Kader Benouis, alleging he masterminded a wave of bombings in France over the past three months.

The warrant cited his alleged role in an Oct. 6 bombing at the Maison Blanche metro station in Paris that left 13 people injured.

The French press has reported that Benouis was believed to have provided funding for French-based units carrying out the terrorist attacks, which began with a July 25 bomb blast at Saint Michel station in Paris which killed seven and injured 90.

French officials allege he was a member of the Armed Islamic Group, which has claimed responsibility for bombings in France.

A veteran of the war in Afghanistan, Benouis was

also sentenced to death in absentia by Algeria for an attack at Algiers airport in 1992 that left nine people dead and 123 injured.

The British media said he had been living on government assistance in the Hammersmith district of London.

The extradition proceedings were announced Wednesday hours after the departure from Scotland Yard of French Magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere, who has been leading probes into the French attacks.

Mr. Bruguiere and aides spent 36 hours here going over tapped phone conversations and bank account records seized in the weekend raids, Scotland Yard said.

France has been rocked by eight bombings or attempted bombings since late July that have left seven people dead and more than 200 injured.

French authorities have blamed Algerian militants trying to end French support for the military-backed government in Algiers.

Rockets land in Kabul; front quite

KABUL (Agency) — A rocket barrage by Taliban rebels left two people wounded here Wednesday, but the front-lines around the Afghan capital were calm except for some sporadic shelling.

Seven rockets landed near the runway of Kabul airport, closed for more than two weeks since a bout of previous shelling, and two landed near the presidential palace, slightly injuring two people, hospital sources and witnesses said.

The Afghan government accused Taliban militiamen besieging the city for the past month of launching the mid-day rocket attack.

A barrage of rockets on the capital on Tuesday left at least two people dead and one injured.

Government commanders at the front in Argandeh, a village some 20 kilometres southwest of Kabul, told AFP meanwhile that their lines were quiet aside from what has become a daily routine of long-range artillery duels.

"We haven't moved for a month," said tank commander Mubarak Shah as Taliban fighters perched in nearby hills let loose a salvo of BM-12 rockets at his position.

"The Taliban tried an assault last night but we pushed them back," he said while crouched in a small crawlspace dug underneath his Soviet-made T-55 tank.

"They shoot at us, we shoot at them," he added as shells crashed into the earth less than 100 metres from his sand-bagged tank.

Taliban rebels have been besieging the capital since early October in a bid to topple the nearly three-year-old government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The Taliban, who have seized control of much of the country in the past year, have vowed to oust the Tajik-dominated Rabbani administration and impose Islamic law throughout Afghanistan.

A previous bid by the Taliban to capture the capital was repulsed in March.

The "student militia" is made up mainly of members of Afghanistan's Pashtun majority from the south of the country.

They are opposed by the forces of Ahmad Shah Masoud, the former defence minister and hero of the anti-Soviet resistance.

A U.N. envoy said Wednesday the Security Council may vote later this month to close its mission in Afghanistan if peace efforts for the country continue to prove unsuccessful.

In the face of ongoing fighting, U.N. envoy Mahmoud Mestiri said he was temporarily suspending his latest peace initiative in Afghanistan to allow the rival factions time to discuss their own peace proposals.

Speaking to reporters in Kabul after meeting with President Burhanuddin Rabbani, Mr. Mestiri said he would wait to see if talks between the rival leaders led to a ceasefire.

"What makes me patient is that they are talking to each other," Mr. Mestiri said. He said representatives from various warring factions were meeting in the southern city of Kandahar, the stronghold of the Taliban.

The Taliban, however, have refused even to discuss a cease-fire until Mr. Rabbani resigns from office.

Mr. Mestiri's comments came one day after Mr. Rabbani renewed his offer to resign only after a ceasefire was reached.

Group warns of increased violence in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian Human Rights Organisation (EOHR) warned Wednesday of an unprecedented surge in Islamic militant violence and the recent appearance of acts of mutilation on the victims.

The group said in a report there had been an "unprecedented increase in violent acts now taking place in the Upper Egypt governorates of Assut, Qena and Minya."

There were 333 deaths in the three provinces between January and October this year compared to a total of 620 deaths in the previous four years, the report said.

In Minya, 250 kilometres south of Cairo, 259 people were killed since the start of the year — most by Muslim militants — almost as many as the 1994 toll of 279 for the entire country.

Outlawed armed fundamentalist groups are carrying out a campaign of violence to try to topple Egypt's secular government.

The EOHR report said: "Egyptian Copts (Christians) have been a target of deliberate killings by armed groups since this violent trend started in 1990."

Twenty-four Coptic Christians have died so far this year, compared to 16 for the whole of last year, it said.

The report dismissed as "totally untrue" the claim by Muslim militants that Coptic Christians collaborated with police.

Police are the main target of militant groups, making up 51 per cent of the victims of armed militant groups, the EOHR said.

The rights watchdog also warned of a change in the practices of armed militant groups "with the appearance of mutilation of the bodies."

"It is striking that the armed violent groups have started, since August 1995, to mutilate the bodies of their victims to intimidate the people and prove their ability to revenge," it said.

The report named two peasants who it said were beheaded after being shot dead in August and September. One of the heads was placed in a plastic bucket and tied to a lamp post.

It said armed groups were responsible for 60 per cent of the 963 killings committed in the confrontation between militants and security services in the past five years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hizbollah claims Israeli soldier killed

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Iranian-backed Hizbollah on Wednesday said its snipers shot and killed an Israeli soldier in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" to avenge the slaying of a Palestinian militant chief. But Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) denied the report. "A sniper unit opened fire at an enemy soldier in Sweida (central sector) killing him at once," Hizbollah said, adding the attack was part of operations to avenge Fathi Shaqaqi, the head of Islamic Jihad shot dead by suspected Israeli Mossad agents in Malta last month. Israeli artillery meanwhile kept up an overnight barrage on suspected Hizbollah positions in South Lebanon and helicopters circled the region firing flares.

Israeli paper apologises for 'Arafat's death' slip-up

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli newspaper apologised Wednesday for a report which referred to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's "death" stirring little grief in self-ruled Gaza. The Jerusalem Post said the embarrassing slip-up was the result of a "most unfortunate typographical error," it said: "We regret the mistake and apologise for the anguish it may have caused our readers." The English-language daily said in issuing a correction to its report on Tuesday, "Arafat's death has not been received with much grief in Gaza," said the report on how the funeral of Israel's assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was followed by the Palestinians.

School bus driver hurt in bomb attack

TYRE (AFP) — A bus driver was seriously wounded Wednesday when a bomb exploded as he opened the door of his mini-bus and schoolchildren walking towards the vehicle were unharmed, police reported. Nayef Fayad, 34, was wounded in the face and body by shrapnel, police said, adding that the bomb weighed about 15 kilograms. The incident occurred in the town of Jwaya, near the southern port of Tyre.

Lebanese officials head for talks with EU

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese officials flew to Brussels on Wednesday for talks with the European Union (EU) on a so-called "partnership pact" to replace a 1977 cooperation agreement. Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Zafer Al Hassan, who headed the Lebanese delegation, said the talks will include financial cooperation and banking, transport, tourism, insurance, industry, agriculture and environment. Drugs eradication will also be discussed, Mr. Hassan told reporters at Beirut airport.

11 people wounded in train attack in southern Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — After a lull of seven months, suspected Muslim extremists raked a passenger train with gunfire in southern Egypt, wounding at least 11 people, police said Wednesday. The attack comes as tourism has revived in Egypt after two lackluster years. Tourism Ministry officials have been predicting that more than three million foreigners will arrive this year, setting a record. The incident, which occurred shortly after midnight Tuesday, was the first reported since March 22, when militants climbed aboard a tourist train in the south, killing three civilians and two police guards. Police said that in the latest incident, the train was headed north to Cairo from Luxor when it came under fire near the village of Farshout in Qena province, 470 kilometres south of Cairo.

British soldiers foiled in legal move

LARNACA (AFP) — Three British soldiers accused of killing Danish tour guide Louise Jensen have failed to convince a court that they were unlawfully and constitutionally arrested by Cypriot police. Larnaca assize court on Wednesday strongly rejected claims by Alan Ford, 27, Jeff Parnell, 23, and Justin Fowler, 27, that they were illegally stopped and arrested at a police roadblock on Sept. 12 last year. The court's decision comes as a severe blow to the defence, which argued that vital prosecution evidence gathered by police following the arrest should be excluded from the trial, including the soldiers' bloodstained clothing and an army shovel allegedly used to bludgeon Jensen to death.

COLUMN

Picasso's 'Le Miroir' sells for \$20 million

NEW YORK (R) — Pablo Picasso's painting "Le Miroir" doubled Christie's estimates and sold for \$20 million Tuesday night, the auction house said. "Le Miroir", a 1932 large canvas painting of Picasso's then-mistress Marie-Therese Walter, was one of 10 works by the Spanish artist offered in the sale. Only one did not sell. Three of the four highest priced lots in the \$107 million sale of impressionist and modern paintings and sculpture were by Picasso.

Another Picasso work, "Garcon A La Collette", a rose period 1905 portrait of a performer in ruffled collar and tunic with his hand draped across his chest, sold for \$12.1 million — above its \$10 million estimate. Christie's senior director of impressionist and modern works, Michael Findlay, said Picasso was one of the few artists whose works from different periods attracted entirely different buyers. The strong sales will bode well for more Picasso works as the season's impressionist and modern sales continue at Christie's and Sotheby's over the next two days, he said. "People do like to bid when they have company," Mr. Findlay said. Picasso's 1911 "L'Independant (Nature Morte A L'Eventail)" sold for \$7 million. A portrait by Amedeo Modigliani, "Portrait De Sculpteur Oscar Miestchinnoff", reached \$9.4 million. All prices include a buyer's premium.

Girl gives birth during exam, throws child in toilet

PIETERSBURG, South Africa (AFP) — A South African teenager gave birth while she was writing an exam at her school and later dumped the child in a pit latrine, police in the country's northern province said Tuesday. The unnamed girl, realising she was about to give birth, obtained permission to leave the exam room and rushed to the toilet where she gave birth to a baby boy before allegedly throwing him down the latrine. Other pupils heard faint cries coming from the toilet and alerted teachers. The girl was later arrested on a charge of attempted murder, police told the South African Press agency.

Teenage Romeo and Juliet commit suicide

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — A young teenage couple who their parents wanted to separate committed suicide by jumping into a canal, leaving a note saying they knew no other way of staying together, authorities said. Police found the bodies of Marilyn Flores, 13, and Christian Davila, 13, floating in the Tamiami Canal, two days after their parents declared them missing. Neither knew how to swim. "It's a Romeo and Juliet story. This is as sad a case as you can find," said detective Ramon Quintero, who first investigated the disappearance. The young couple apparently decided to run off together and end their lives after Marilyn's parents told her she could no longer date Christian. They sent suicide notes to their parents and friends explaining their decision. "You'll never be able to understand the love between me and Christian. I feel that without him I can't live. You don't let me see him in this world, so we're going to another place... Please don't cry for me, this is what I want, read Marilyn's note."

Panel rejects Kashmir polls

NEW DELHI (AFP) — An autonomous Election Commission on Friday rejected a proposal to hold elections in Kashmir by the end of next month. The commission, headed by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, was "not convinced" of the conduct of a fair election in Kashmir.